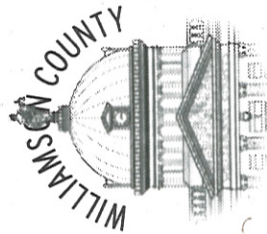




Local
quilters
in
stitches

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THE
SUN

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GEORGETOWN, TEXAS ■ MARCH 19, 2014

One Dollar

County considers
launching drones

Emergency services workers want
to use the devices after disasters

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BURGER'S INAUGURATION



City mulls rare move

Council considers carving de-annexation 'donut hole'

BY WILL ANDERSON

A developer is seeking an unconventional deal that would cut a large swath of open land out of southeastern Georgetown but would in turn, officials hope, spur development in an otherwise dormant area of the city.

David Nairne proposed at Tuesday's council meeting that the city cede partial control of a roughly 300-acre parcel bounded by Sam Houston Avenue to the south and the Texas 130 tollway to the east.

In its place, a residential development named Wood-

elect MUD board members.

Plans for Woodhull also include room for office space and apartments but represent a significant shift away from the development master plan adopted six years ago that zoned most of this area of Georgetown for commercial development.

The council would have to rezone more than 100 acres from commercial to residential use under the proposal.

U-turn in master plan

"We've got a land-use plan that contemplates certain activity here and it

The jovial college president

By PAT BALDWIN

Like a cloned superhero, he seems to show up, well, everywhere. At least one student is convinced there is more than one President Edward B. Burger on the Southwestern University campus.

"If he's not at a Pirate softball game, he can be found eating dinner with us in the dining hall, working out in our gym or attending a senior recital," said Nathan Tuttle, president of the SU Student Congress. "He seems to be everywhere at once."

There's just one place, however, the 50-year-old mathematics professor will be March 25 — at his inauguration as the 15th president of the 174-year-old liberal arts university.

The ceremony is part of a week of ac-

tivities to celebrate the post he assumed July 1.

In his brief tenure, President Burger acknowledged he's been spending a "lot of time" on the job, getting to know the students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and other constituents as well as bonding with the Georgetown community.

At an early afternoon interview in his office in the stately Hugh Roy and Lillie Cullen Building, which dates to 1898, he remarked, "I just had a lunch with what I call the informal council of elders, who are retired faculty emeritus. I want to get everyone's input. I talk to the town, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary, women's groups — any group that will take me, just to get feedback."

His passion for responses and reactions, however, is not the aspiration of a newcomer.

President Burger first came to Central Texas in 1985 for his doctoral studies in math at the University of Texas at Austin.

The native of upstate New York recalled, "I thought to myself 'Holy Cow, this is where I belong.' I remember having the thought, back then, I would love to live my entire life in this Central Texas area and die here. I remember actually thinking, 'It would be great to die here.'"

Despite such geographic ambitions, he spent most of his academic career as a math professor at Williams College in northwest Massachusetts, winning several prestigious teaching awards.

He's the first academic to head the university since physics professor Robert

Continued on 12A

Georgetown man killed in automobile accident

A 22-year-old Georgetown man died a little after 10 p.m. Monday after his car hit a power pole off State Highway 195 a few miles south of Florence.

Alfredo Ramirez crashed his car at 9:35 p.m. heading south on the state highway.

Mr. Ramirez was driving his 2004

Ford F-150 Monday night when he drifted off SH 195 to the right and then overcorrected back to the left, causing the car to strike a power pole, according to officials with the Texas Department of Transportation.

— Brienne Tolj



Map by Elizabeth Hauser

district, according to Mr. Nairne's proposal.

Municipal utility districts, or MUDs, are political subdivisions traditionally outside of city limits. The subdivisions issue bonds to pay for infrastructure and charge residents taxes and fees. Residents

Continued on 11A



Andy Sharp

Longhorn sunset

A graceful Texas Longhorn grazes at the completion of a near perfect day Monday. He is one of several Longhorns raised by Deby and Mike Lannen at their home on County Road 366 in Taylor. It's interesting to note that even though they love Longhorns, the Lannens are fans of the Texas Aggies.

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DR EDWARD B BURGER
1 TAYLOR RD
GEORGETOWN TX 78626-6148

**R011

Burger provides contrasts from predecessors

Continued from 1A

Hyer became president in 1897.

President Burger was an early advocate of technology in education and, last year, finished a series of videos that teach math from kindergarten level to calculus.

"I'm very proud of that body of work — more than 4,000 videos are available," he noted. "About 45 percent of Texas students use those videos to learn."

Beyond his vita, he provides some unexpected contrasts from his predecessors.

He seems as ready to offer a hearty laugh as he is to pursue a scholarly dialogue. During his earlier days in Austin, he had a few stints as a standup comic at the Laff Stop (now Cap City Comedy Club). He has balanced time in the classroom with time in the boardroom, serving as a consultant to such entities as Microsoft Corporation, the World Bank and the U.S. Department of the Interior. His Jewish heritage and single status have meshed smoothly with the institution's founding Methodist traditions.

He commented, "To me, I'm very open as to understanding where we've been, where we are and the strongest, richest possibility for the future. And I don't think that comes in any particular shape or size or background or belief system. I think it's beyond that. It's above that."

Student Congress president

well to people of all ages and conveys a sense of energy and excitement about his work at Southwestern."

As to the president's leadership style, Dr. Karr continued, "He is a very collaborative leader who has quickly assessed current realities, obtained input from others and communicated a vision for the future of Southwestern."

President Burger was open and forthcoming in an abbreviated, but wide-ranging interview that included the serious, the frivolous — and even Harry Potter.

Q: You've already made some tough decisions, such as halting the proposed master's program in translational medicine. Comment briefly on that decision.

A: The program was based on its being either cost neutral or, ideally, revenue generating. And it turned out it would have cost the university upwards of about \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year. I was hoping we would find ways to fund it through external opportunities, but I didn't see that coming. The moment I realized it was not going to be financially viable, I wanted the people who were spending a lot of time on it to realize it was not going to happen. Will it happen in the future? That's certainly a possibility. Do we want to continue the relationship and collaboration with the Houston Methodist

to the athletics department. How did that impact you and the re-launch of football at Southwestern?

A: Everything is moving forward, and we're excited about the great progress we've made.

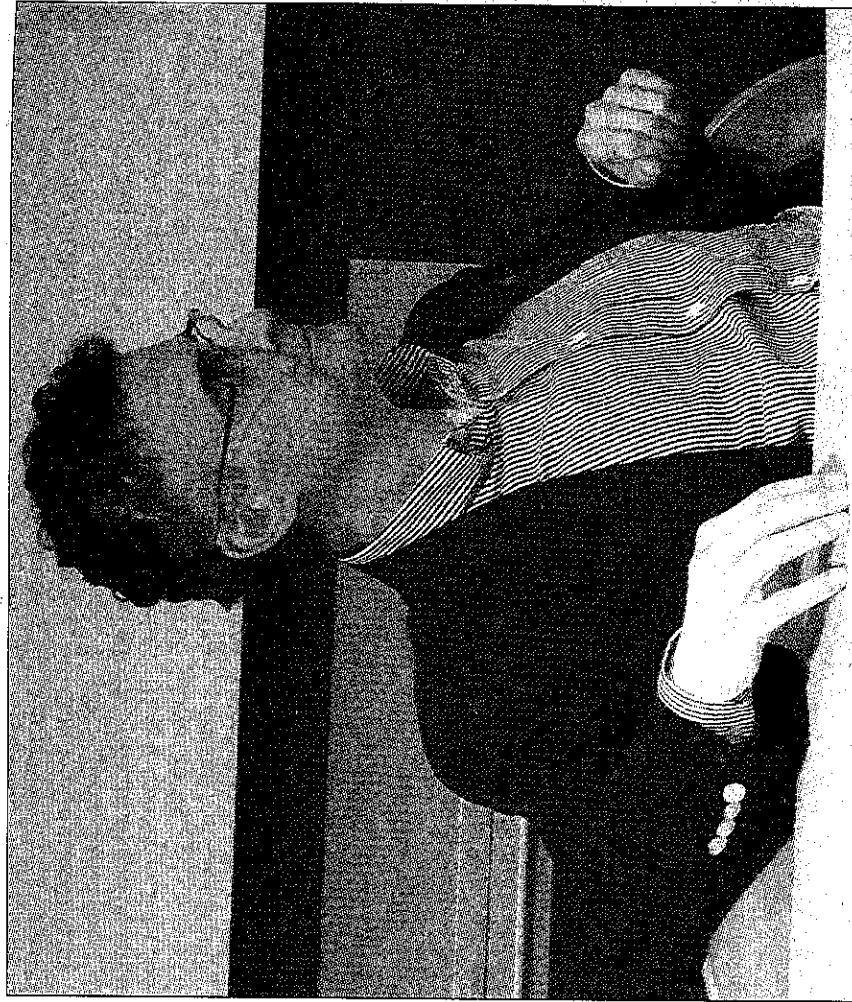
Q: So you are not going to make everyone happy all the time?

A: It's not my job to make people happy all of the time or even some of the people some of the time.

My job is twofold. No. 1: to make sure our current students are getting the absolute best, most distinctive, most profound educational experience that is possible in today's world. No. 2: to make sure this institution is standing as strong, if not stronger, a hundred years from now so that the then-president can offer their students the richest, the most powerful, the most, life-changing education.

Q: The *Huffington Post* named you as a 'Game Changer in Education' because you encourage and reward "effective failure." You also discuss failure in your book, *The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking*. Have you ever learned from a mistake?

A: Everything I do is about learning from mistakes. But you can't think of a mistake as a dead end. Do we really think Shakespeare was writing iambic pentameter



Pat Baldwin

President Edward Burger at this month's discussion of digital dementia on the campus of the Texas A&M Health Science Center in Round Rock.

tigious Cherry Teaching Award at Baylor University. What is the secret of being a great teacher?

A: I would say that the short answer is No. 1: Be yourself. No. 2: Understand why you are drawn to what ever subject you are teaching. Then try to make that subject come to life. I think if you do that in a compelling way

very good.

Q: There's a math expression on the invitation to your inauguration. What does that mean?

A: You're looking for the answers. Southwestern isn't a place where answers are given — they are earned. But I will tell you, if you know

a place where answers are given — they are earned. But I will tell you, if you know Southwestern, you can figure it out.

$$15\sqrt{1840(20\pi+4e)}$$

$$(2^2 \cdot 3 \sqrt{15}) - 3.51 = ?$$

[Sun note: Readers, please help. Send your answers and best guesses to President Burger's math puzzler to editor@wilcosun.com.]

in mathematics. I just said, 'Holy Moly, Austin is not like the northeast. I think this change would be good for me in terms of getting a second wind.' And the move to Austin was the best decision I ever made in my life.

Q: It's been reported you like Texas hold 'em poker. Is that true?

A: I love it. The thing is, I'm a mathematician, and you'd think I'd be good at it. But no. I play the person, not the math, and as a result, I'm not

ever subject you are teaching. Then try to make that subject come to life. I think if you do that in a compelling way, students will respond.

Q: You grew up in upstate New York. How did you get to Texas for your doctoral studies?

A: I did my undergraduate work at a small school — Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut — very much like Southwestern. As I was graduating, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but

you can't think of a mistake that Shakespeare was writing iambic pentameter right out of his quill? Of course not. He was revising. He was editing. But every time he wrote something, he had something to respond to. I try to foster an environment where people will not be afraid to try something because they are afraid it might not work. That's not an excuse to not try.

Q: You received the pres-

or background or belief system. I think it's beyond that. It's above that." Student Congress president Tuttle observed, "Dr. Burger is a student-centered president to his core. His interest in us as people is genuine, and we would be hard-pressed to find a more passionate advocate for the student body." This vote of confidence was echoed by physician Robert Karr, chairman of the Southwestern Board of Trustees: "Ed is fun to be around because he is witty, relates

Q: There was some initial controversy surrounding your appointment — because you were not a traditional administrator, such as a dean or a provost. And alumnus Joe Seeber rescinded a \$5 million pledge

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