Bastrop city manager, council trade bars, B2

Runner struck by car during Austin Marathon, B3

Metro & State

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

NEW DETAILS MANOR SCHOOLS

District, Brackmeyer to part ways

Once-ousted superintendent, later rehired, is on way out again; board says it wants a fresh start.

By Andrea Lim alelim@statesman.com

The Manor school board is negotiating the departure of Superintendent Kent Brackmeyer, less than two years after trustees took the rare step of removing him from his job.

On Monday night, the school board voted to execute a retirement agreement with Brackmeyer, who had resigned under pressure in 2014, but then took the job back after a date of trustees who support- ed his return was elected. Trustee Sam Sarnats, Brackmeyer’s main critic on the board, was the lone dissenter who instead made a motion to terminate Brackmeyer. His motion died because no other trustees supported him.

But even Brackmeyer’s once staunch supporters are saying now that the district — where test scores continue to lag and where audits recently found a long list of financial discrepancies — needs a fresh start.

“This pope has got nothing on PJP2,” said a long-time local reporter who was referring to the culture war between Pope John Paul II and his critics.

“It’s been a tough time when a pope drops by your part of the world, especially if your part of the world is one where folks in the massive crowd. — and I’m pretty sure he didn’t dent. Though I saw His Holiness, especially if your part of the world is one where

By JeanneClaire vanRyzin

Therapy dog Tucker came with his owner, Geri White (right), to help deaf students with their reading skills.

Graders Maddie McGann (left) and Kaylee Sweet took part in the program that brings dogs like Tucker — calm, attentive, obedient — from the Austin Dog Alliance’s BowWow Reading Dog program to the school to help students read aloud in a safe and non-judgmental setting.

“AUSTIN STATE OF THE CITY

Adler calls for taking risks as Austin grapples with growth

By Andra Lim alelim@statesman.com

Adler said that risk is part of pursuing meaningful solutions. In some cases, “we have to learn and get better. This is how we do big things.”

“Let’s open that risk up,” Adler said in a prepared remarks for his second State of the City address, held Tuesday night at the 440-seat Zach Theater. “This is how we act and get better. This is how we do big things.”

The agreement should be finalized within a week, Thom- as said. While calling it a retirement, Brackmeyer is 56, years away from being eligible for full benefits through the Texas Retirement System. Brackmeyer’s contract includes a severance provision and it’s unclear whether he will be paid for the remaining time. The board had three closed- door sessions regarding his contract since Dec.

Brackmeyer began taking his new job in December, and he has been on medical leave in an undefined illness since the start of this year.

 Manor continued on B3

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAL

Dogs help kids with reading tricks

Therapy dog Tucker came with his owner, Geri White (right), to help deaf students with their reading skills at the Carrasco Street Elementary Comprehensive Classroom on Tuesday afternoon. Texas School for the Deal fourth-grade students from Black and Sweet took part in the program that brings dogs like Tucker — calm, attentive, obedient — from the Austin Dog Alliance’s Bow Wow Reading Dog program to the school to help students read aloud in a safe and non-judgmental setting.

More information: statesman.com

NEW DETAILS OFFICER SHOOTING

Police union boss rips Acevedo

Chief’s actions in death of David Joseph uncertain to pull the trigger.

The agreements should be paid for the remaining time.

Brackmeyer’s contract since Dec. 7.

Austin and the Austin Justice Coalition on Thursday to make public statements inside the Police Department headquarters at times that were at high times highly critical of the police.

“We have problems — and I’m not talking about rhetoric — there’s a lot of things they said,” union Pres.

union continued on B6

WALLER CREEK

Large art project to grace Waller Creek

Conservancy, museum team up to commission series of works.

By Jeannie Claire vanRyzin jvarey@statesman.com

A public art installation on the Waller Creek esca- sp is a huge boom. The Austin City Conservation Board, the Contempo- rary and the Contemporary Austin, which operate the Waller Creek Con- servancy, have commissioned the first of what will be many future public art projects for the 1.5-mile stretch of creekbed downtown.

A major specific instal- lation by artist Oly Ginger, to be unveiled March 5, is the first realization of a new part- nership between Waller Creek Conservancy, the private non-profit spearheading the trans- formation of the creekbed, and the Contemporary, the muse- um that operates both the Austin Bat House and the Dia Zere Lagos’ site with the Edward and Betty Marcus Sculpture Park.

Adler continued on B5

RULYBURLY UNVEILING


The Austin Public Art Board is unveiling a new art installation on the Waller Creek Greenbelt on Saturday, March 5.

The installation, "Rulyburly" by artist Zaarlaud Greenhouse, is a piece that will be on display for the next year.

The unveiling will take place at 10 a.m. at Zaarlaud Greenhouse, 7120 S. Congress Ave.

Read the full prepared text of the speech with the story on mystatesman.com

“Our job is to create and inspire, and it’s critical that we work together to make sure our schools are a place where every child learns and grows,” Adler said in a prepared remarks for his second

Assistant Professor

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Art

continued from B1

Gengen’s “Hurlyburly” will be a map of 100,000 sprinklers with 100,000 lights that will stretch across unlabeled streets in an area directly adjacent to the walls of Walker Creek near the Walker Creek Southos park on the north shore of Lady Bird Lake.

The project on city parkland is funded privately by art patrons Michael and Jeanne Green and Suzanne Deal Booth. It will open with a public reception May 3 and remain on view, through February 2017.

“I thought that it was a group of things, and City Council and the mayor bought into the idea of it,” Gengen said of her current project. “I was mostly interested in the idea of landscape and the history that’s behind the piece.”

Orny Genger created “Current” for the amphitheater at the Contemporary Austin’s Laguna Gloria site. That installation featured undulating blue-gray waves of rope.

Two years ago, Orly Genger created “Current” for the amphitheater at the Contemporary Austin’s Laguna Gloria site. That installation featured undulating blue-gray waves of rope that spilled down the amphitheater’s broad steps, with one cup after another accompanying its flowing journey, appearing not like a stream of lava onto a wondrous braze platform right to the edge of the horizon.

Gengen has used recycled lobster rope for more than a decade, creating interactive installations in New York, Houston, and Miami, among other cities.

Leaders at the Walker Creek Conservancy and the Contemporary Austin have planned a yearlong program to encourage public art in growing areas.

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