



June 2018

The Auditor's Report

Travis County Auditor's Office Newsletter



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Notes from Nicki

Phone etiquette has gone to the dogs! When is the last time you were in an important meeting and someone's phone kept ding, beeping, or whistling? Today? Yes me too. Annoying? Yes definitely.

Have you ever been in an interview and are suddenly treated to the refrain from "Beat It"? Or, have you ever been in a deep brainstorming session with your coworkers and someone busted out their phone mid-sentence to answer an emergency text from their kid asking if they could go to the mall? Thank goodness THAT got answered. Affordable Housing, the County's budget and world peace will just have to wait. I keep my cell phone on silent. Because even though I sometimes pretend to be, I'm just not that important.

Nicki Riley, Travis County Auditor



March Madness Fund Raiser

The Auditor's Office held a fund raiser that was based on the NCAA bracket. Teams were formed and entered the competition to play for the charity of their choice. The team's name represented their charity.

Seven teams entered the fund raiser. It was a winner take all format—with the winning team's charity receiving the entire amount.

The **Austin Zoo** team represented by **Katy Edwards, Beth Adams, and Suzanna Fleegal** was declared the winner (thanks to the University of Virginia being a bracket buster). Austin Zoo will receive a \$70 donation.



"I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse."

– Florence Nightingale

J U S T D E S S E R T S 2 0 1 8

On April 26th, the Auditor's Office held their 5th annual *Just Desserts* Contest. Participants brought their best desserts to showcase their talents to the panel of judges. Contestants were judged on taste, presentation, and originality.

The prize winners from left to right: **Brooke Greenfeder** and **Karina Carr** (2nd place); **Donna Scarbrough** (1st place); **Shannon Clayboss** (3rd place).



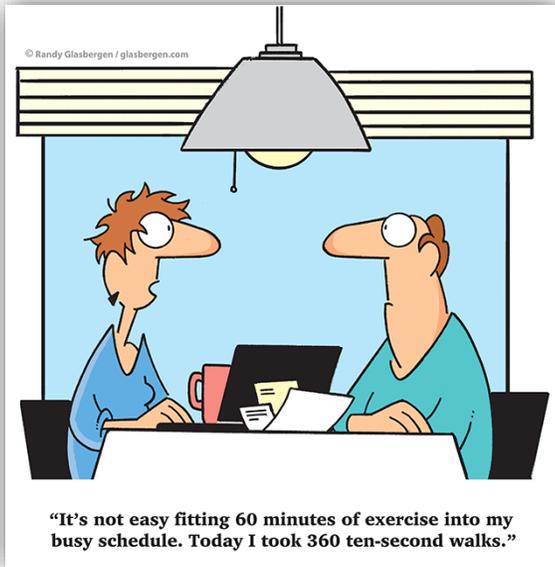
Our entrants this year: Beach Treasures (**Donna Scarbrough**); Chocolate Flan Cake (**Bernadette Gutilla**); Chocolate Chip Cookies (**Brooke Greenfeder & Karina Carr**); Chocolate Strawberry Cupcakes (**Patty Turner**); Almond Crusted, French Vanilla Bundt Cake (**Patty Lennon**); Banana Pudding (**Shannon Clayboss**); and Red Velvet Shots (**Eddie Hopkins**).



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all the judges for making our friendly competition a success! It was a tough job, but someone had to do it. Our thanks to: **Judge David Crain**—Civil District Courts; **Judge Tamara Needles**—Criminal Courts; **Nicole Edwards**—Criminal Courts; **Jessica Rio**—PBO; **Bonnie Floyd**—Purchasing Office; **Diana Ramirez**—PBO Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives (EDSI); **Tracey Calloway**—HRMD; **Sara Krause**—Compliance & Privacy Officer; and **Sherine Thomas**, County Attorney's Office!

Million Mile Month Challenge



The race was on!

The Purchasing Office challenged the Auditor's Office to a "Million Mile Month" competition. After a highly competitive month of activity, the Auditor's Office edged out the Purchasing Office. Final totals were: **Auditor's Office—4,224.1 miles** (40 participants) and **Purchasing—3,006.8 miles** (33 participants).

Special recognition to **Tom Stephenson**, who was second overall in the County in total miles (409.9).

LEADERBOARD		Total Minutes: 287,529	Event Download Historical Events	
Name	Group/Team	Progress	% Towards Goal	Miles
Bri Caldara	Human Resources Management		100%	508.9
Tom Stephenson	County Auditor		100%	409.9

And the Award Goes To...

The Auditor's Office was one of nine organizations nationwide to receive an *Award for Excellence in Government Finance* from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). It was recognized at the annual GFOA conference.

The award was received for the electronic "related party" verification form in the category of *Exceptionally Well Implemented GFOA Best Practices*.



Travis County maintained its triple-A bond rating, which has been consecutively awarded since 2000. The rating allows the County to borrow at very low interest rates and is the result of Travis County's strong internal controls and financial position reflected by its financial statements. The rating highlights the ongoing collaborative effort and financial leadership by the **Commissioners Court**, the **Planning & Budget Office**, the **Auditor's Office**, and **County departments**.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized three County initiatives with its Achievement Award. The first award was for online HIPAA compliance training, a collaborative effort with the HIPAA Compliance Officer. The second award recognized the *Prompt Payment YouTube Video*, a collaborative effort with the Purchasing Office Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program. The third award was received for the Auditor's Office *Interactive Online Payment Register and Details* application – part of the Auditor's ongoing transparency initiatives to provide easy to use, accessible financial information to the public.

"We are honored by this recognition from NACo. Travis County strives to work collaboratively to serve the public. These awards are dedicated to the hard work of many individuals across various departments working together as a team." - Nicki Riley, County Auditor





Super Stars



Loren Breland—Purchasing for redoing tons of PO’s when Miller Uniforms changed tax IDs and became Galls.

ITS staff—**Chance Wheelbarger, Matthew Doak, Max Obkirchner** for assistance with an OS/DB/Security upgrade.

Facilities staff—**Maria “Cristina” Alanis, Agustina Mercado** for thoroughly cleaning our offices— they really shine.

Mitchell Goertz—**TNR SAP Super User** for leading the User Group’s discussion on liquidations and improvements.

Just Desserts Judges’ Favorite

Edie Hopkins’ Red Velvet Shots received the judges’ vote as best tasting dessert in this year’s contest.

INGREDIENTS	
<p>CAKE</p> <p><u>Duncan Hines Devil’s Food Cake Mix</u> 1 cup water *use Hot Water 3 large eggs *1/3 cup softened butter instead of Vegetable oil</p> <p><u>Add additional ingredients:</u> 2 egg yolks 8 ounces sour cream; softened 1 cup flour ½ cup granular sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla extract ¼ teaspoon salt</p>	<p>CREAM CHEESE FROSTING</p> <p>3 8-ounce bars of cream cheese, softened 2 sticks butter (1 cup), softened 2 cups granular sugar 8 ounces Cool Whip topping, thawed 3 cups confectioners’/powdered sugar 3 tablespoons vanilla extract Cream or milk Salt to taste</p> <p>Garnish for Frosting: 12 Hershey’s Chocolate Almond candy bars; chopped up into small pieces</p> <p>Container: 4 or 8 ounce clear plastic disposable cups. Recipe will make 60-4oz cups or 30-8oz cups</p>

Step 1 Cake

Mix all ingredients and bake in a 13x9 pan @ 350F for 30 to 45 minutes until done (insert toothpick in center comes out clean). Cool and cut in ¼ inch cubes. *set-aside a cup of cake to use as cake crumbs for the frosting garnish.

Step 2 Frosting

Use mixer to blend softened cream cheese and butter; add cool whip topping. Next, blend in granular sugar, then powdered sugar, milk, vanilla extract until frosting has a soft and fluffy consistency. Add salt as needed.

Step 3 Assemble Red Velvet Shots

Place ½ ounce frosting mix in cup with spoon. Add red velvet cubes until cup is almost full. Use spoon or pipe frosting on top. Garnish with Cake Crumbs and Chocolate Almond candy bar pieces. Refrigerate until serving.



Fun Facts



Winner, winner, chicken dinner (really just a \$10 Starbucks gift card). Congratulations to **Joe Kertz**, the winner of our Fun Facts contest from the last newsletter. The answers to true facts about Auditor’s Office staff are below.

Fun Fact #1: I worked for motion picture companies for 9 years in NYC and LA (**Joanne Englund**).

Fun Fact #2: I have been to 38 states, 11 countries, and 4 continents so far in my lifetime (**Amanda Muehlberg**).

Fun Fact #3: Lucille Ball lived part of her childhood in my hometown (**Matt Naper**).

Fun Fact #4: I married the same person 3 times (**Janek Niefeldt**).

Fun Fact #5: I’m always asking my co-workers to bring in gross or smelly food (**David Stanton**).

SAP — Tuition Reimbursement



Tuition reimbursement is now online in ESS.

The process is “paperless”. The new option features:

- **Electronic submission** of the application (before the course) and the course/grades (upon completion).
- **Email notification**, letting employee know if application is approved/rejected and opportunity to update a rejected application with incomplete information.
- **Automatic payment generation** (through payroll) upon approval from HR Administrator, which is much quicker.
- Ability for employee to **check the status** of reimbursement at any time.

Policy changes have reduced the reimbursement waiting time and changed the maximum annual amount. Find more information at: <http://sharepoint/aud/SAP/cms/Tuition> or contact TuitionReimbursements@traviscountytexas.gov.

Inspired to “Turn Pain into Purpose”

Sabrina Bullard, a Financial Auditor/Analyst in the Grants division, shared a compelling story about her family’s experience with Alzheimer’s on a radio broadcast with KLBJ. In relating her experiences, Sabrina talked about turning her “pain into purpose.” Dubbed a *Volunteer Supreme*, Sabrina is very passionate about supporting the Alzheimer’s Association and encourages everyone to get involved. They will be having a benefit, **Walk To End Alzheimer’s** at the Travis County Expo Center on **October 13th**.

Check out Sabrina’s interview at:

<http://www.klbjfm.com/blogs/b-does-blog/walk-end-alzheimers>.



Employee News

The Auditor’s Office:

- ◆ Welcomes **Chuck Leckbee**, who transferred from HRMD to the SAP team as a business analyst.
- ◆ Congratulates **Ronald Cintron**, who passed his Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) examination.
- ◆ Welcomes **Tracey Powers**, who joins the Risk Evaluation and Consulting (REC) division as a Financial Auditor Analyst.
- ◆ Congratulates **Suzanna Fleegal** on her promotion to Financial Auditor Analyst with the Consolidations and Financial Reporting Division.
- ◆ Congratulates **Ely Allen** on his promotion to Associate Auditor in the GL/Disbursements Division.



Meet the Auditor's Office

Meet James



James Rannefeld is a Financial Auditor Analyst with the Consolidations and Financial Reporting division, where he is responsible for the analysis of and reporting for the County's Internal Service Funds. Before coming to Travis County, James was a controller for an oil and gas production company in San Angelo.

He grew up in Eden, Texas, a small rural community that is the geographic center of Texas. His graduating class had 17 people. At 15, he began playing drums semi-professionally and made his way to Austin in 1989 to pursue a music career. For the last 8 years, he was the drummer for a Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band—The Damn Torpedoes. He is newly married to wife Lynda and has two children from a previous marriage (son Nathan who attends ACC and daughter Erin, a sophomore at Bowie High School) as well as 3 adult step-children and 4 step-grandchildren.

Ask James * *What do you find most challenging about your job at Travis County?* The title "auditor" tends to scare people. I pick up on others' emotions easily, so I work hard to maintain a calm and respectful demeanor when engaging with others in order to make our interactions as pleasant as possible. That can be a challenge, especially if there's a built-in level of fear and defensiveness before I can ask the question or request the information I need. I come in peace!

* *What is your favorite thing to do away from work?* I enjoy being outdoors in nature and expressing myself creatively, primarily through music, writing and photography.

* *What is the one thing you can't live without?* A sense of purpose.

Meet Aaron

Aaron Joy is the Disbursements Supervisor in the General Ledger/Disbursements Auditing division, which is responsible for auditing vendor invoices and travel for payment. Aaron was born and raised in San Jose, California and moved to Round Rock with his wife Melissa, in 2017. He is a Bay Area sports fanatic—49ers (football), Warriors (basketball), Giants (baseball) and Sharks (ice hockey). He has two cats (Lucky, Jax) and likes to barbecue and hang out with family. Aaron's favorite food is pizza. He doesn't like kale—which he says is a garnish, not a food.



Ask Aaron * *What is one of your pet peeves?* Drivers who drive down the street with their turn signal on, who don't turn it off or change lanes (until I do it—then it's OK).

* *What is one thing you like about working at Travis County?* It allows me to maintain a good work/life balance. When working at a start-up, I would frequently be at home working until 10:30 or later each night.

* *What was an embarrassing moment at work?* In high school, I worked at a theme park. In the middle of the day, with a park full of people, I went to jump over a queue line chain. My foot caught the chain and I went down hard—but I got lots of applause!

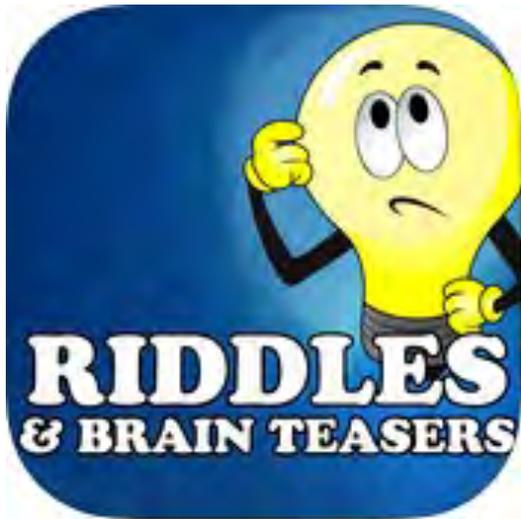
Audit Schedule

Upcoming Reviews

JP3 Risk Assessment	Commissary
Radio Contract Review	TNR Parks (Risk Assessment & Audit)
Property Tax Rebates	Constable 4 Risk Assessment
Bail bond board/surety bonds	Online Banking Access Review
JP Criminal & Civil Court Cost Assessments	

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

- *Winston Churchill*



A store has on sale a computer and word processor small enough to fit in your pocket. It can add, multiply, subtract, divide, and write in all languages. It has a delete device that will correct any error. No electricity is required to operate it. The price? Only a few cents! How can the store make a profit by selling it so cheap?

Answer: The computer is a wooden pencil with an eraser!

