

City of Goldthwaite changing & growing

By Tammarrah Pledger
Goldthwaite Eagle

Over the last few years, the City of Goldthwaite has seen new infrastructure go up, new businesses come to town, and other big changes that affect the economy. While it is hard to see the forest for the trees in Goldthwaite, it may well be that significant growth for the city is on the horizon.

Population

Published figures from the 2010 census put Goldthwaite's population at 1,878 people. According to the Texas Demographic Center, the estimated population in Goldthwaite as of Jan. 1, 2019, was 1,903. The number of people in the city is slowly increasing.

New Infrastructure

The Mills County Courthouse, largely through the receipt of a Texas Historical Commission grant to the tune of \$5 million, completed a \$6 million restoration project from 2009 to 2011.

In addition, the Mills County Commissioners' Court voted to have the 1888 Mills County Jail building, located adjacent to the courthouse and also on the square, restored.

Also on the courthouse square, veterans' memorials have gone up in recent years, not only honoring history and the sacrifice of locals and their families, but attracting visitors to the city — from those searching for ancestors, to history buffs, and everyone in between.

In 2013, officials broke ground on the new Goldthwaite Consolidated Independent School District's elementary school, and it was in use by following school year.

In 2014, the Goldthwaite Welcome Center went up on Fisher Street.

In 2015, construction began on the new Mills County Law Enforcement Center, located on Old Priddy Road.

In 2016, the new Mills County Senior and Community

Center was built on Parker Street next to Mills County State Bank.

This year, construction at the site of the new GCISD high school has been completed.

In 2019, the Goldthwaite Pavilion, part of Legacy Plaza was completed, and numerous events have been held there. Legacy Plaza, which also includes the Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, and is located in compliment to the Mills County Historical Museum, Jennie Trent Dew Library and the Welcome Center — all on Fisher Street (Hwy 183) — brings visitors to Goldthwaite throughout the year and promotes tourist activity in the city.

Sales Tax Revenue

The City of Goldthwaite became "wet" after the option election to sell alcohol in the city limits was held in November of 2016. As new products and new businesses are added to the local economy, sales tax revenues reflect the change.

This has added to the sales tax revenue in the city fairly considerably, not only in the fact that existing businesses and restaurants have applied for licenses and now sell beer and wine, but also in the creation of completely new businesses.

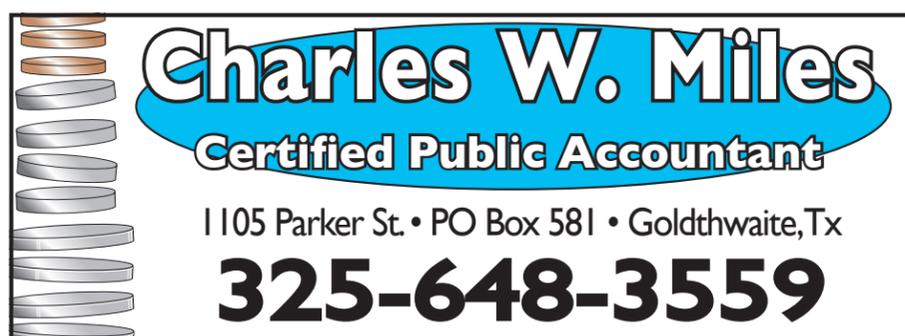
Aside from the alcohol sales, other new businesses have sprung up this year and at least two existing businesses have expanded in the last year or so.

Comparing sales tax revenue as reported by the Texas Comptroller from 2017 to 2018, there had been an increase to the tune of \$30,000 looking at January through June for that time period shortly after the election. Even with the COVID-19 impact on the economy across the country, including Texas, in May of this year, sales tax in Goldthwaite had increased by 0.71 percent over the year

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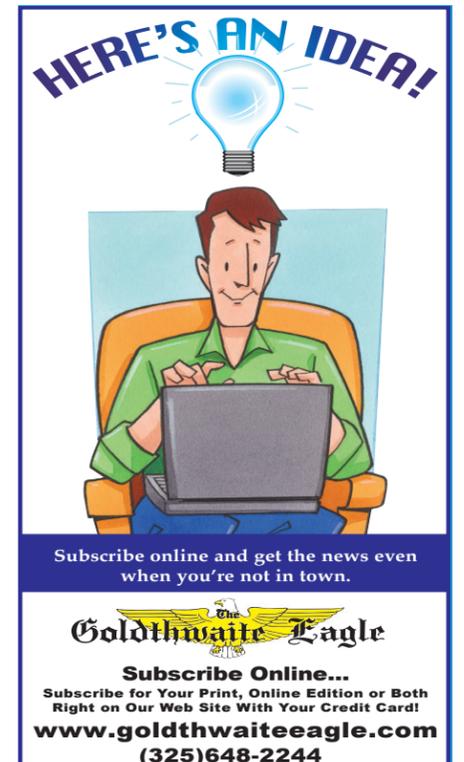
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