



Five things to know about Westlake businesses this month



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After selling their Swiss herbal drug company in 2012, now-Austinites Pierre Leitgib and Olivia Frey-Leitgib set sail on their own boat for a four-year sabbatical in the South Pacific, with two of their four children in tow. What the two entrepreneurs did not expect to find was their next venture, Paris in a Bite, a specialty goods shop slated to open early next year in Davenport Village shopping center, 3801 N. Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360), Suite D-180.

"We went to [Raiatea], the island next door to Bora Bora," Pierre said. "There was an old lady doing macarons there. We had macarons before [but these] were good, and she was in the middle of nowhere. It was at a time when we were scratching our heads about what's next. We watched her, we observed her. We said, 'let's do that.'"

The couple researched their idea, discounted the east and west coasts of the U.S. as too costly and congested, choosing to land their new business in Austin.

"Austin is a very foodie type of place and people are open to novel things, I found, ready to try and taste new things," Pierre said.

Their research also showed the area was a good place to raise a family, Olivia said.

Olivia and Pierre plan to open their new shop at the beginning of next year, specializing in 12 permanent and additional rotating flavors of macarons, a pastry with two airy sides filled with a flavored ganache.

However, as the Leitgib family discovered, making macarons is not easy.

"You make the shells, you make the ganache" said Olivia who is French on her father's side of the family. "Then you dry the shells alone. Then you mix the shells with the ganache. Then you have another refrigerating process.

Taste of Paris coming soon to Austin's Davenport Village

You have to keep them in a dry condition so they are airy. The ingredients are very simple, very basic, but it is how you make [the macaron] that makes the difference.”

The store will also offer chocolate imported from Switzerland and sold by the piece, champagne brought in from the Champagne region of France, caviar from the French region of Aquitaine, soft nougat desserts and cheese plates.

As for the boat?

“We sold it to invest in Paris in a Bite,” Pierre said.

Paris in a Bite, Davenport Village, 3801 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite D-180. www.parisinabite.com

More news about local businesses:

- Hipster-style apparel retailer Attic Salt plans to open in December at Barton Creek Square Mall, 2901 Capital of Texas Highway, Suite C1A, Austin. The business is based in Nebraska. www.shopfuego.com
- Bee Cave resident Jeff Wilkinson is set to open his second franchise of PLAYlive Nation at the end of November in Barton Creek Square Mall, 2901 Capital of Texas Highway, Suite A13, on the first floor next to Macy’s. Similar to its Lakeline Mall location, PLAYlive Nation will offer high-end gaming stations, video games and birthday parties. www.playlivenation.com
- Snappy Salads opened Oct. 25 in the former La Madeleine location within the Village at Westlake shopping center, 701 S. Capital of Texas Highway, Suite G725, Austin. The Dallas-based restaurant, founded in 2006, serves salads, soups, wraps, breads and plates. 512-312-7627. www.snappysalads.com.
- Trianon-The Coffee Place, 3201 Bee Cave Road, Suite 163, Austin, will close its West Woods Shopping Center site Dec. 23 and relocate to 3654 Bee Cave Road, West Lake Hills in 2018. Locally owned by Charles Emile Lauriat, the 32-year-old shop offers coffee, tea, smoothies, juices, pastries, sandwiches, wraps and gifts. 512-328-4033. www.trianoncoffee.com



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