

All-District honors

Sports, Page 10



Whitetail research in Kerr County

Outdoors, Page 9

Ingram ISD honors its veterans

Story below

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WEST KERR

Thursday
December 14, 2023

Serving Ingram, Hunt, Mountain Home, the Divide

Current

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Community gathering place proposed at First Thursday

By Kari Short
West Kerr Current

At the final 2023 First Thursday Group meeting at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on Dec. 7, Ingram ISD Superintendent Dr. Bobby Templeton described a community unification project.

He proposed the group work with him to place a very large flagpole flying American and Texas flags at the Ingram Tom Moore campus near the highway.

"The school would maintain, light and landscape in perpetuity," explained

Templeton. "We also would want to put in a seating area for prayer, community, July 4th or fallen hero celebrations. We just want to have a community gathering place. The cost is about \$30,000 turnkey or \$20,000 if we do our own work. I'd like it to be a community project and rallying point - just some place to be an American."

"I think that would be a great project to get behind," said FTG Facilitator and Security State Bank & Trust President Molly Adams.

Educator Jan Parker suggested people can make dona-

tions in honor of veterans.

Austin Dickson, CEO for the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, added his organization can assist with donation collections.

Checks may be made payable to the First Thursday Group via the Community Foundation.

In other school business, Templeton informed the group that plans have been confirmed to approve a Building Trades program at ITM beginning in August 2024.

See Thursday, Page 11



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

An large number of people attended this year's Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) ceremony this year, held at the Kerr County Courthouse on Sunday evening.

Menorah lit at courthouse

By Irene Van Winkle
West Kerr Current

Hanukkah in Kerr County was celebrated Sunday night with a large attendance, perhaps in deference to the conflict going on now in between Israel and the Hamas.

Here, however, all was peaceful and inspiring as the community gathered on the

Kerr County Courthouse grounds to witness the annual lighting of the menorah, a symbol of the Jewish celebration that continues for eight days, one for each of the candles on the traditional menorah.

Led by several members of the Jewish community, the ceremony included music by a band with Chris Huber,

Karen Billingsley, Davis Isidore and Greg Bitkower.

Music included Hava Nagila, the Dreidel song, and other traditional favorites of the Hanukkah season.

There was a reading of the meaning of each of the eight candles.

The Hanukkah tradition

See Menorah, Page 6

Ingram ISD launches virtual wall to honor its veterans

By Louis Amestoy
Special to the Current

As part of an initiative to demonstrate the importance of service to our current and former students, the Ingram Independent School District is launching a virtual wall of honor to recognize graduates who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The wall will live on the Ingram ISD website, with recognition of former students by the year they gradu-

ated from Tom Moore High School. To view the page: <https://www.ingramisd.net/wallofho> nor. Within the page, there is a form to submit information about individual students who have served: <https://forms.gle/vjAmLJzDR8GHK9D37>.

Through the years, numerous Tom Moore High School students have served in the Armed Forces.

"We want to remember our students who have served and are still serving, but this also allows us the

opportunity to show our current students how our Ingram Warriors are committed to serving our nation," said Ingram Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Robert Templeton.

Regularly, students discuss potential service with Ingram ISD staff who have served their country, including Tom Moore, Vice Principal Brandie Guzman, and history teacher and track coach Maj. Brent Beadle, (US Army-retired).

"Having veterans speak to our stu-

dents about joining the military offers a rich and authentic perspective that helps students make informed decisions about their future careers," said Guzman, who served in the U.S. Army. "It provides valuable insights into the military lifestyle, career opportunities, and the personal and professional growth that can result from military service."

One of the measures of state accountability is student prepara-

See Veterans, Page 12

Commissioners OK most agenda items

By Irene Van Winkle
West Kerr Current

In addition to status reports, several plat considerations and informational discussions, Kerr County leaders agreed on approving election services, appointed a new member of the Veterans Services Advisory Committee and accepted new revised job descriptions

Commissioners Court had a relatively

See County, Page 6



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

Hunt caroling

Baby Luca Germaine, just two months old, lays quietly in the tender arms of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer at the Hunt Christmas Caroling celebration held last Wednesday. At right, his mother and grandmother are delighted to share him with the admiring community for Christmas.

Ingram VFD honors members with awards

By Irene Van Winkle
West Kerr Current

Ingram Volunteer Fire Department held its annual Christmas/awards dinner last Saturday at the fire house, complete with dinner by Buzzie's BBQ, a number of awards and recognitions for services performed.

Fire Chief Ray Lynch introduced several new members, but the highlight of the awards is Firefighter of the Year, which was given to Butch Baccus.

Butch Baccus himself presented several awards, including most-improved firefighter, which was Anne Lippman, who he said has always been

such a big help.

Other pins for length of service went to Bart Baccus, for 35 years of service; and for five years pins were awarded to Thomas Baccus, Daniel Guevara, Patrick Murphy and Aaron ("AJ") Nelson.

Lynch listed the past year's fire calls, which to that date, were still substantially lower in number than anyone could remember.

Actually by comparison, Lynch noted, "The number of alarms (to date) totaled 131, compared to more than 178 in 2022. The drought conditions were bad in 2023, but now the rain has started," Lynch said.

As for calls, he announced



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

Firefighter of the Year
Butch Baccus

that in 2023 IVFD responded to 30 motor vehicle crashes,

See IVFD, Page 12

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Ingram police report



An Ingram police report is not available this week.

IVFD fire report



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Ray Lynch, Chief
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Fax: 367-3073
P.O. Box 271
Ingram, TX 78025

Alarms
12-8-23, 11:46 a.m., two-vehicle motor vehicle crash with entrapment, 2900 block of Junction Hwy..

Lucy Wilke files for re-election as 216th DA

Incumbent 216th District Attorney Lucy Wilke has filed for re-election with the state to be on the March 2024 Republican ballot in Kerr and Gillespie counties.

The 216th Judicial District is comprised of Kerr and Gillespie counties and Wilke maintains an office in Kerrville. Her office handles all criminal cases committed by adults within the two counties.

A Comfort native, Wilke graduated from Schreiner College and Baylor Law School. She began work as a prosecutor with 216th District



Lucy Wilke
Attorney Bruce Curry's office in January 1997. When Curry

West Kerr Community Calendar

Thursday, December 14
"The Old Campus Spirits" — a holiday performance presented by Schreiner University. Admission is free and public encouraged to attend. Seating is first come, first served. The story follows a student on his journey seeking answers about life, school and the Christmas spirit. Performances from choir band, orchestra and Songkeepers. Junkin Ministry Bldg on the Schreiner campus, 7:30 p.m. Also Dec. 15.

Friday, December 15
Lady Warrior basketball — Open
Warrior basketball — vs. Center Point, here, V, 5:30 p.m.
Security State Bank & Trust — Holiday Open House with Santa Claus, 3241 Junction Hwy., Ingram, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Republican Women of Kerrville — Luncheon, \$16, reservation required at rwkcreervations@gmail.com Info at 830-955-5433, Inn of the Hills, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Snow on the Island — at Tranquility Park in Kerrville, 5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16
Ingram Holiday Lighted Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony — Begins at the West Kerr Annex and ends at the Ingram Event Grounds; Christmas tree lighting, Santa, carols, cocoa and cookies, 6 p.m.
Christmas at the Kroc — Free community event; photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating, breakfast with a movie and more; Info at 830-315-5773, 9 a.m.- noon.
Texas Gun & Knife Show — Christmas show. Vendors, food available, free admission; Kerrville Expo Hall, 3785 Hwy. 27, Kerrville. 9-5, also Sunday, 10-4.

Monday, December 18
Lady Warrior basketball — vs. SA West Campus, there, JV/V, 5//6:30 p.m.
Santa Paw — KPAI event at Ken Stoepel Ford, bring your pooch to see Santa, 400 Sidney Baker St. S., 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19
Warrior basketball — vs. Sabinal, here, JV/V, 5//6:15 p.m.
Kerrville Art Club — Luncheon for members and invited guests, Hill Country Arts Foundation, 1 p.m.
Rainbow Trout — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will release 1,200 rainbow trout into the Guadalupe River in Louise Hays Park; daily bag limit is five trout, more info at 830-357-7300.

Thursday, December 28
Lady Warrior basketball — Eden Tournament, V, TBA
Warrior basketball — Eden Tournament, V, TBA

West Kerr Weather

Rainfall
Source: Ingram observer for National Weather Service. Observations taken 8 a.m. to 8 a.m. at HCYR.

Tuesday, December 5 - Tuesday, December 12

Tuesday 12/5	0.00 in.	Saturday 12/9	0.00 in.
Wednesday 12/6	0.00 in.	Sunday 12/10	0.00 in.
Thursday 12/7	0.00 in.	Monday 12/11	0.00 in.
Friday 12/8	0.00 in.	Tuesday 12/12	0.00 in.

Total for 2023 (to date)	15.82 in.	Total for 2015	37.27 in.
Total for 2022	12.22 in.	Total for 2014	19.12 in.
Total for 2021	39.28 in.	Total for 2013	24.75 in.
Total for 2020	28.57 in.	Total for 2012	22.73 in.
Total for 2019	27.66 in.	Total for 2011	11.63 in.
Total for 2018	37.40 in.	Total for 2010	27.24 in.
Total for 2017	24.85 in.	Avg. annual rainfall	31.65 in.
Total for 2016	36.04 in.		

Burn ban lifted in all precincts
Since conditions change frequently, for latest updates call Pct. 4 Commissioner Don Harris at 792-2215 or the sheriff's office at 896-1216. The Burn Ban Hotline is 830 315-BURN (2876).



retired in 2016, she ran for the office and was elected district attorney. She was re-elected in 2020.

Wilke has two assistant district attorneys in her office, two legal assistants, one full-time and one part-time investigator, and an office manager.

One of her assistants handles primarily Kerr County cases and the other handles cases in Gillespie County. Wilke is involved in prosecuting cases in both counties along with her assistants.

"I'm a felony prosecutor, not a politician. I carry a caseload and try cases just like my assistants," she said.

Wilke has extensive trial experience prosecuting various felonies, including but not limited to, Capital Murder, Murder, Aggravated Assault,

Robbery, Sexual Assault of a Child and Sexual Assault of an Adult, Organized Crime Activity, Cruelty to a Non-Livestock Animal, among many other felonies.

"We handle everything from start to end. We assist law enforcement officers as needed in their investigations, intake cases and present them to grand jury, handle all pre-trial matters, bench and jury trials, appeals and post-appeal matters. We follow the case

from the beginning to the end of the prosecutorial process," Wilke said.

According to Wilke, human smuggling spiked for a while, but the caseload has come down recently. She is seeing an increase in child sexual assault cases. That seems to be the type of case that has increased the most lately, at least in her office, and while it is very rewarding to seek justice in those cases, they are

usually some of the most complex cases to prosecute.

"Felony prosecution has been so rewarding that I don't feel like I've been doing this for 37 years. It feels more like five years. It's been such a privilege and honor," Wilke added.

She said her goal for the next term is to continue to represent the people of the State of Texas with a tough, but fair and honest hand.

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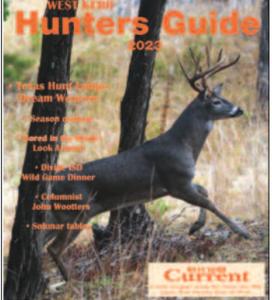
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Christian Men's Job Corps changes name to Life Skills

By Kari Short
West Kerr Current

The Christian Men's Job Corps hosted its biennial breakfast and fundraiser at St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Tucker Hall in Kerrville on Thursday, Dec. 7.

In addition to recognizing program graduates and an inspiring presentation from program alum Charles Joseph, Program Director Tom Jones announced the organization is adopting a new name: Christian Men's Life Skills.

"The purpose of the name change is to get more in tune with who are," said Program Director Tom Jones. "We are Christian men teaching life skills."

The program philosophy is inspired by Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so shall one man sharpen another."

Established in May 2005 as a 501(c)(3), the organization has served more than 565 men in Bandera, Kerr, Gillespie, Kendall and Bexar counties.

Today, 25 percent of the participants are voluntary; and 75 percent are court-mandated. The organization has one full-time employee and one



Photo by Kari Short

The Christian Men's Job Corps announced a name change to Christian Men's Life Skills at their biennial breakfast last week. Pictured with their life-sized program symbol, the anvil, are, from left, Program Director Emeritus David Weekley, Alum and Keynote Speaker Charles Joseph, Volunteer Mary Weekley and Director Tom Jones. Not pictured is Board President Mike Lowe.

part-time assistant.

The other 20 staff are volunteers who are professionals in business, banking, education and trades. They volunteer their time not only to teach but also to mentor par-

ticipants and alumni.

The organization holds classes three nights per week for eight weeks for the court-mandated classes at the Hill Country Veterans Center on Meadowview in Kerrville.

Class sizes are typically 30 men per class.

An additional two weeks are voluntary. Ninety percent of the enrollees opt to complete the full 10-week program. The eight-week pro-

gram satisfies the district court mandate, while the 10-week program offers enhanced resources, certificate of completion and a class ring.

The classes include life skills, work ethics, family dynamics, parenting, anger management, financial planning, Bible study and community service.

Independently graduates of the program formed an alumni group which meets regularly to mentor other graduates and support participants in the ongoing programs.

This program is offered three times per year at no cost to the participants and includes associated graduation ceremonies. For more information: cmlifeskills.com

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Harpold seeks another term as 198th DA

Incumbent 198th District Attorney Stephen Harpold has announced he will seek the Republican nomination for another term in the March 2024 Republican primary. The 198th District Attorney prosecutes felony cases in both Kerr and Bandera counties.

Harpold served as assistant district attorney for six years before successfully winning the primary and general elections in 2020 and succeeding Scott Monroe as DA on Jan. 1, 2021.

Harpold has been an attorney since 1990. He began his legal career serving as an assistant district attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office from 1991 to 1994. From 1995 to 2000 he was in private practice in Fort Worth.

In 2000 he and his family moved to the Hill Country, and he joined with Greg Richards and Pat Pattillo to create the firm Pattillo,



Stephen Harpold

Richards and Harpold, practicing both civil and criminal law until he joined Scott Monroe's office.

"I love my job and the people I work with, along with the rewards of fighting crime, seeking justice and making our communities safe and stronger," Harpold said.

"In the past two years a significant number of the cases

have been filed in the 198th District, but our biggest problem continues to be related to drugs and alcohol offenses in the district," Harpold said.

Many of the cases Harpold is prosecuting now deal with human smuggling, something he had not dealt with until two years ago.

"In the past two years a significant number of human smuggling cases have been filed in the 198th District, but our biggest problem continues to be related to drugs and alcohol offenses in the district," Harpold said.

He said his office predominantly handles drug and alcohol cases in both counties, plus they prosecute aggravated sexual assaults, murders, continuous sex assault of a child, and other violent cases.

Felony cases in Kerr County are generally divided between the 198th and 216th DA offices based on the date of the offense. Even num-

bered dates go to the 216th and District Attorney Lucy Wilke and the offenses on odd numbered dates go to the 198th District DA's office.

Felony offense reports from all the local and state law enforcement agencies serving Kerr and Bandera counties are submitted to the 198th DA's Office for possible prosecution and presentation to a grand jury for formal indictment.

"I am very proud of all our local law enforcement agencies and their ability to interdict, investigate and solve crimes. They are highly motivated and do a great job and their cases are well-investigated. I am also grateful for the hard work our county probation office performs," Harpold added.

The 198th DA's office is located in Kerrville adjacent to the Kerr County Law Enforcement Center on Clearwater Paseo. He has one assistant district attorney, one investigator, and three office staff which he describes as "an incredible group to work with."

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From left, Johnny Grimes, Joan Crider, Kyrsten Wood and Lynn Isham

John and Susie Grimes came to Kerrville in 1977 and worked beside each other for 30 years. In 2007, Johnny took the reins and purchased the funeral home and in 2008, built a crematory onsite. John M. Grimes passed away in 2021 and his legacy lives on.

Johnny is married to Stacey Grimes, and they have two sons, Hunter and Walker. Hunter just graduated out of Arkansas and Walker is a junior at Texas A&M University.

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Death notices

Thomas Howard Mars, age 63, passed away on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, in Kerrville, Texas. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

Allen Wayne Zuniga, 47, of Kerrville, passed away from this life on Dec. 5, 2023, in San Antonio. Funeral arrangements are by Wright's Funeral Parlor.

Heather Irene Hughes, 17, of Ingram, Texas, passed at a hospital in San Antonio on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

William Edward "Bill" Rolison, 85, of Kerrville, passed away Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, in a local care center. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

Gaye Lynn Krueger, 67, of Kerrville, passed away Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, in San Antonio. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

Douglas Martin Jones, 82, of Kerrville, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at his residence. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

David Lee Besier Sr., 62, of Kerrville, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Kerrville. Funeral arrange-

ments are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

Mary Kay Graham-Gilbert, 67, of Harper, passed away Friday, Dec. 9, 2023, at her residence. Funeral arrangements are by

Grimes Funeral Chapels.

Virginia C. Schattyn, 83, of Kerrville, Texas, passed at a local hospital on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

The WEST KERR Current

will not publish an edition on Thursday, Dec. 28

The deadline for the Dec. 21 edition is Monday Dec. 18



Upper Guadalupe River Authority Weekly News

Did You Know Rainbow Trout are Not Native to Texas?

But they are still fun to catch! Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will stock rainbow trout in the Guadalupe River at Louise Hays Park on December 19th and January 17th. To catch them, all you need is your fishing pole, bait and, unless you're under 17 years of age, a freshwater fishing license. Look for rainbow trout in deep pools this winter because they prefer cold water temperature. The Guadalupe River is the home to many kinds of fish all year round including Guadalupe bass, sunfish, and catfish, so keep your fishing pole handy!

For more info on TPWD's trout stocking program check out the blog at www.ugra.org/public-information/education/blog/tpwdtrout2023



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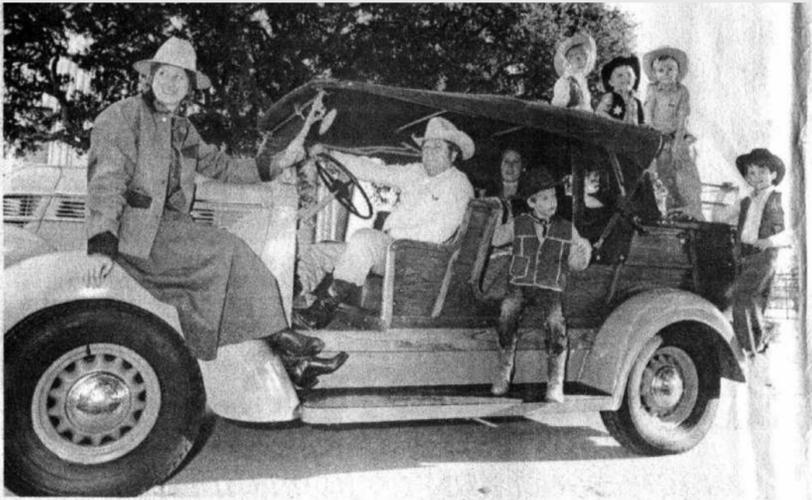
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Back 40 Supply



38 years ago:

From the pages of The Ingram News



Christmas parade practice

Floats representing 100 years of Texas history will be driven by the cast and crew of the "Facts and Follies of Kerr County" Sesquicentennial pageant to be presented in March. Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Shelton, chairmen of the

historical pageant, are pictured in a 1938 International hunting car with their huntin' podners Kay Blevins, Chad Marks, Philip, Bryan, and Thomas Wolfmueller and Kempe Shelton.

In The News December 12, 1985

Drainage woes re-surface

Greenwood Forest drainage problems and hiring a unit road engineer dominated Monday's regular session of the Kerr County Commissioners Court.

Approving preliminary conference plans for further expansion of the West Kerr County subdivision, Commissioner Billy Joe Guthrie told surveyor Charles Dominguez to give careful consideration to how

homeowners behind the proposed commercial strip would have access to Goat Creek cut-off Road.

Representing developer Bob Risher, Dominguez said the landowner intends to sell off about five acres of larger tracts along the cut-off road suitable for apartments or multi-housing units.

"He wants to sell bigger pieces of land that could be further subdivided," Dominguez said. "It would be a commercial-residential type development area."

"But unless you have a master plan showing sufficient access to Goat Creek, you're

going to overload Skyview and Oakview," Guthrie said. "And we already have traffic problems there."

Dominguez indicated that the developer has chosen to leave any road building in Section 10 to future land purchasers.

Commissioners agreed to allow the expansion although they remain apparently unsatisfied with undetermined plans for roadbuilding.

Following on the heels of that discussion, Commissioners got another earful of continuing drainage problems in a nearby section of Greenwood Forest.

This feature is made possible by the gift of Ingram News back issues from the late Sylvia Schumacher.

King Crossword

Solution on Page 11

ACROSS

- 1 "Kapow!"
- 4 British ref. work
- 7 Holler
- 12 Director Spike
- 13 Chemical suffix
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Nest egg acronym
- 16 Large, luxurious car
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Range
- 20 Collections
- 22 — tear (ragging)
- 23 First lady of scat
- 27 Earth Day mo.
- 29 Transparent
- 31 Dolphins' home
- 34 Traces of smoke
- 35 Agile
- 37 Obtained
- 38 Bygone Peruvian
- 39 Flamenco cheer
- 41 Vacillate
- 45 Quick trip
- 47 Shoe width
- 48 Pungent cheese
- 52 Aachen article

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Drop by Dietert Center Open House this Saturday afternoon

Will you be out and about on Saturday, Dec. 16th? Stop by Dietert Center from 2-4 p.m. for our annual Open House and some great snacks.

Come see all that Dietert has in store for you in the coming year, and also all the services and programs currently available.

Bring your friends, neighbors, and family members to check out the Programs, the Place, and the People that make Dietert so special.

The new Club Ed Catalog is hot off the press, so stop by and grab one to start your



Dietert Center

Brenda Thompson

plans for your next activity or class.

It's not too late to make your Dietert Christmas Pie order. Make your holiday food prep easy this year, or consider gifting one to your friends, clients, neighbors or

family members. Orders are due by noon on Dec. 15, and pies will be ready for pickup on the 22nd.

Buttermilk is \$13, Apple Crumble, Pecan, and Breakfast Quiches are \$18 each. You can call us to order, stop by for a visit and order, or visit our website www.diertcenter.org to place your order online.

Our annual giving campaign, "Impact Beyond Measure," kicked off in December with a matching grant from the Anderson Foundation. All new, or increased giving will be matched up to \$15,000.

Please consider Dietert for your end of year giving, and help us support our Kerr County seniors through Meals on Wheels, the Friendship Café, Dementia Care Advocates, Take 5 Day Respite Care, and the many Community Service program options available including Call Reassurance, Medical Equipment Lending and Handy Helper Services. We could not do all that we do without the generosity of our wonderful community. Give me, or Paige Sumner a call if you have any questions, want to make a donation over the phone, or want to learn more about how your donation makes a difference. What kind of impact can you make?

Looking for a special Christmas gift for a parent or loved one? Consider setting up a Personal Alert Link and gifting the low monthly service fee. This is a gift that gives both ways. While your loved one feels secure in knowing someone is available at the touch of a button in case of a fall or a significant health need and, you are also secure in knowing that they have extra help if needed. Give Rick Phipps a call at 830-792-4044 to get the process started.

The Boomers and Beyond Alliance Blanket Drive was a great success. Thank you to everyone who dropped off new blankets to share with our seniors in need of warm snuggles this winter. We still have our box at Dietert if you haven't dropped yours off yet.

A special thanks to Kristy Vandenberg and her Ultimate Gift of Life organization. As a fundraiser, she decorated over 50 beautiful tiny trees and sold them a few weeks ago. She offered an option for donors to keep their tree, or donate it to Dietert Meals on Wheels for seniors who need some Christmas cheer in their home. So, another special thanks to those 15 donors who chose to do just that. I had the honor of delivering 10 of those trees along with MOW volunteers. The recipients were so thankful, and in their excitement, they brought some great Christmas spirit to us as well.

Do you have a homebound friend or family member, aged 60-plus who needs Meals on Wheels? Give us a call at 830-896-8117 to review guidelines for the Meals on Wheels program to get you started on the program.

If you are able to drive or catch a ride with a friend, please join us for lunch at the Friendship Café and enjoy great food. Doors open at 11 with lunch served 11:30-

12:30. If you are a Kerr County resident, 60 years or older, and complete some annual paperwork for us, the meal is by donation; otherwise, the meal is \$8.

The menu for the week is:
Wednesday – Scrambled Eggs, Biscuit and Sausage Gravy
Thursday – Beer Battered Cod
Friday – Crispy Chicken

Sandwich Monday – Green Chili Pork
Tuesday – Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole
Wednesday – Sloppy Joe on a Bun

Please give us a call at 830-792-4044 if you have any questions or need additional information about our programs and resources.

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Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm
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SCRAMBLERS Answers on Page 11

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fewest
STEAL

Companion
SECTOR

Lift
ARISE

Vast
GATER

TODAY'S WORD

"When I said give him everything you've got—
I didn't mean your !



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

Ingram Garden Club donates

Ingram Garden Club generously gathered donations for Christmas recently which were sent out to Christian Assistance Ministry. Standing next to truck are, from left to right, Barbara Young, Barbara Brown, Valeria Squires, CAM representative, Bev Kelly, Susan McClintok, Christa Mogenis, Julie Mogenis, Carolyn Worley, Judy Conway, Barbara Dolan-Wallace, Alene Kirklen, Ruth Maples and Pati Whetsel.

Christmas at the Kroc this Saturday, 9-noon

The Kerrville Kroc invites the families and individuals to the annual Christmas at the Kroc from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Dec. 16.

There is much fun to be had at this event, all of it entirely free for the community to enjoy.

There will be photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, breakfast with a movie, and much more.

This event is just one of the four community events the Kroc Center hosts year-round as a way to give back to the community and bring people together.

If you have any questions regarding Christmas at the Kroc, or volunteering during the event, please contact Bailey Coombes at bailey.coombes@uss.salvationarmy.org or (830) 315-5773.

Living Prepared
GUN SHOW
 GUNS & GIFTS! in Kerrville
 THIS WEEKEND December 16-17
 Sat 9-5 • Sun 10-4
 Kerrville Expo Hall
 For more information, call 830-285-0575
 texasgunandknifeshows.com

High school students: Apply now to win trip to Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. is home to museums and memorials, beautiful art and grand architecture, and, of course, our nation's leaders and legislators. In 2024, Central Texas Electric Cooperative will send three high school students on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour to discover the history and culture that our nation's capital offers.

CTEC's Youth Tour essay contest is now under way, with essays due Jan. 26, 2024. Winners will earn a spot on what truly is the trip of a lifetime. Participation is open to high school students who will have completed their sophomore year by May 2024.

Youth Tour has a packed itinerary, with stops at the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution museums and many more sites.

In 2024, Central Texas Electric Cooperative will send three high school students on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour to discover the history and culture that our nation's capital offers.

Teens and chaperones from all over Texas will meet June 16 in Austin before taking a chartered flight to Washington, to enjoy activities including a performance at the Kennedy Center, a boat cruise with dinner and dancing, and meeting elected officials. Participants will return June 23.

The co-op covers all expenses for the trip (except personal items such as souvenirs, etc.). Chaperones are provided by sponsoring cooperatives, and CTEC can provide transportation to and from Austin.

Contest Rules

To enter, complete the online form at ctec.coop and

submit a short essay explaining why you think you should attend the trip. Entries can also be submitted in person at any CTEC office. Entries are due by 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, and they will be reviewed by a panel of impartial judges, who will determine the finalists. These finalists will undergo interviews with the panel for the final selection of our winners.

Three winners will be selected, and two alternates also will be named in the event that a winner is unable to attend the tour. Additional information and applications are available online at ctec.coop.

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Calvary Temple
 3000 Loop 534, Kerrville
 895-3000
 calvarytemplechurch.org
 SUN: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship (nursery available)
 WED: 7:00 p.m. Youth
 7:00 p.m. 4 yrs.-5th grade
 Del Way, Pastor

Church of Christ
 610 Hwy. 39, Ingram
 367-3023
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 6:30 p.m. Worship

Church of Christ on Junction Highway
 2500 Junction Hwy.
 367-5340
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 5:00 p.m. Worship
 WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Christ Church Presbyterian
 228 Earl Garrett, Kerrville
 (at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center)
 christchurchkerrville.org
 SUN: 10:00 a.m. Worship
 Rev. John D. Standridge
 john@christchurchkerrville.org

Citywest Church
 3139 Junction Hwy., Ingram
 office@citywest.org, www.citywest.org
 830 367-5363
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Morning Coffee & Donut Fellowship
 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
 & Contemporary Music Sermon
 MON: 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
 WED: 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study &

Youth Meet
 Pastor Chris Dahse

Cross Kingdom
 3044 Junction Hwy
 Kerrville, TX 78028
 Pastor. Justin Carpenter
 (830) 367-3480
 SUN:
 10:00AM - Coffee & Fellowship
 10:30AM - Worship Service
 WED: Outspoken Youth Group 6-8PM

Christian Science Society
 301 Woodlawn Ave., Kerrville
 257-3004 kerrvillechristianscientist.org
 Services and Sun. School 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 !st and 3rd Weds. Testimony Meeting 6 p.m.

First Christian Church
 1900 Goat Creek Rd, Kerrville
 895-5355
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Rev. Joshua deSteiguer

Gateway Fellowship Church
 Pastor Oscar Dominguez
 3325 Junction Hwy., Ingram
 SUN: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Worship
 Phone 830 367-4614

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Texas Hwy. 39 & Webb Rd., Ingram
 367-5672
 SUN: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 TUES: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study
 Pastor John W. Uhl

Hill Country Christian Center
 Ingram 367-4290
 SUN: Sunday School & Worship
 WED: Worship Service

Hill Country Missionary-Baptist Church ABA
 107 Redemption Rd.
 890-5373
 SUN: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 Don Trussel, Pastor

Hill Country Society of Friends (Quakers)
 2100 Memorial Blvd., Kerrville
 Campus Ministry Center at Schreiner University
 257-4316
 SUN: 10:00 a.m. Worship

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 204 Spence St., Kerrville
 257-4433
 www.holycrosskerrville.com
 SUN: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 Joshua Sullivan

Hosanna Lutheran Church
 134 Camp Meeting Rd., Kerrville
 (at Highway 16 South)
 Pastor Dave Bass 257-6767
 Summer schedule (June 3-Labor Day)
 Sundays:
 8:30 a.m. Blended Worship
 10 a.m. Praise Worship

House of Prayer
 108 Morgan St., Ingram
 Sun: 10:30 A.M.
 Wed: 6:00 P.M.
 Pastor Randy Dean 367-2525
 Cell: 830-739-9282
 Carolyn Dean 830-739-9283

Hunt Baptist Church
 238-4863 HuntBaptist@HCTC.net
 SUN: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Prayer Service
 WED: 6:30 p.m. Worship Awana Bible Club, Children - K-6th
 John Collis, Pastor

Hunt United Methodist Church
 120 Merritt Rd. SW, PO Box 137
 www.huntumc.org
 Email: Office2@huntumc.org
 Phone: 830.238.4360
 SUN: 8:30 am Contemporary Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Service
 TUES: 7:30 am Men's Bible Study
 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
 TUES & Thurs: 9-12 noon (Sept-May)
 Parent's Morning Out
 WED: 1:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study
 5:30 pm Praise Team Practice
 Pastor: Bill Harris

Jewish Community of the Hill Country
 Services: Fridays at 6:30 p.m. at The Unitarian Universalist Church,
 960 Barnett St., Kerrville
 For more information: 830-331-8931

Live Oak Church of Christ
 439 Holdsworth Dr., Kerrville
 830-315-9134
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship
 WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Mt. Home Divide Chapel
 Hwy 41 (near YO gate)
 121 Divide School Rd.
 640-3307
 2nd SUN: 2:30 p.m.
 WED: 11a.m. Bible Study

New Hope Fellowship
 A Baptist Congregation
 405 Main St., Ingram
 367-7709
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Service
 THURS: 1 p.m. Choir practice

Notre Dame Catholic Church
 Corner of Water & Washington,
 Kerrville
 257-5961
 SAT: 4:00 p.m. Reconciliation
 5:00 p.m. English Mass
 SUN: Masses 7:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
 5:00 p.m. English - 9:30 a.m.
 Spanish
 Fr. Rafael Duda

Open Arms Ministry
 165 Ingram Hills Rd., Ingram
 830-329-2661
 WEDS.: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 SUN.: 10:30 a.m.-12:36 p.m.
 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Pastor: Thomas Jeffers

Riverside Church of Christ
 625 Harper Rd., Kerrville
 257-5445
 SUN: 9:00 a.m. Bible Class and Worship
 5:00 p.m. Worship
 WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Class
 Pulpit minister: Kevin Kasperek

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 611 Harper Rd., Kerrville
 895-3935
 SAT: 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 Ernesto Illingworth, Pastor

St Michael & All Angels Anglica Church
 2015 Singing Wind Dr., Kerrville
 895-4990 kerrvilleanglicanchurch.com
 SUN: 10:00 a.m. Services

St. Paul's United Methodist
 135 Methodist Encampment Rd.,
 Kerrville 895-2212
 SUN: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School;
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Rev. Glenn Luhrs

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 School - Janet Boutin, Sch. Dir
 320 St. Peter St., Kerrville
 257-8162 -Church
 257-0257 -School
 SUN: 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
 Rev. Bert Baetz, Rector
 Rev. J. Michael Wheeler, Asst. Priest
 Summer hours vary, call office for times.

Sunset Baptist Church
 Junction Hwy., Mt. Home
 866-3415
 SUN: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 J. Dwayne Smith, Minister

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
 960 Barnett St., Kerrville
 830-522-5650 uuuchc.org
 Sunday Service 10 a.m.
 Rev. Phillip Schulman
 minister@uuuchc.org

Victory Baptist Church
 501 Mill Run Rd., 896-4558
 Pastor Delano Day
 Worship Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

Stebbins files for re-election



Heather Stebbins

Incumbent Kerr County Attorney Heather Stebbins has filed for re-election in the March 2024 Republican Primary. Stebbins has served as the Kerr County Attorney since March 2014. She was elected in the Republican Primary that year and took office early when the previous county attorney resigned to run for state representative.

A Kerrville native, Stebbins attended Kerrville schools, graduating from Tivy High School in 1996. She attended St. Edward's University and Baylor Law School. She has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 2004.

She briefly was associated in a private practice in Kerrville before joining the Kerrville City Attorney's Office as a municipal prosecutor and later was appointed Assistant City Attorney. She served in that capacity until March 2014 when she became the Kerr County Attorney.

"I love Kerr County and serving our community. We live in a place where people care for their neighbors. I like being a part of that," Stebbins said.

Her office is located in the lower level of the Kerr County Courthouse Annex. She has three assistant county attorneys, one investigator, two paralegals and two office staff.

The Kerr County Attorney's Office provides

legal guidance to the Kerr County Commissioners Court and other elected officials, as well as represents the state of Texas in the prosecution of all misdemeanors in the County Court at Law and the justice of the peace courts, plus the office handles all juvenile proceedings.

They represent victims of violent crimes who seek protective orders and represent the state in mental health hearings.

The county attorney's office also provides help to the local business community through the collection and prosecution of hot checks.

"I have a knowledgeable, talented staff who are dedicated to the public's safety and helping county elected officials provide an efficient county government," Stebbins added.

Stebbins and her husband Michael have been married for 18 years and have four daughters, Lulu, Jilian, Annabelle and Story. The Stebbins family attends St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



Courtesy photo

4-H Youth recognized

Kerr County 4-H Youth were recognized on Monday, Dec. 11, at the Kerr County Commissioners Court for their success in competing in District 10 4-H Roundup contests on Nov. 28-30. Twenty-seven Kerr 4-H youth competed in contests including Educational Presentation, Public Speaking, Horse Quiz Bowl, Entomology, Food Show and Food Challenge. Those present to be recognized are, back row from left, Rynlee Fiedler, Samuel Hall, Madelyn Hall, Jonathan Hall and Kieran Badey; front row, Brandon Edwards, Reynee Fiedler, Benjamin Hall and Kinley Starr.

Menorah

Continued from Page 1

arises from a time in early Hebrew history summarized thus:

"In 165 BCE the Second Temple in Jerusalem was under the control of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire, which was centered in Antioch in ancient Syria. After an improbable military victory, the Jewish Maccabees were able to regain control of the Temple, relight the Temple menorah, and rededicate the Temple. With only a day's supply of pure oil available, the menorah miraculously continued to burn for 8 days, and the Temple was rededicated. The Hebrew name of the holiday —

Chanukah — means dedication.

"In order to commemorate these events, the rabbis instituted an 8-day holiday. The holiday in modern times has expanded into a universal symbol of spreading the light of goodness into a world often filled with turmoil."

The eight lamps, in addition to the shamash — the helper lamp — match the number of the days of the holiday.

A lamp or candle at home is lit every evening after sunset as each day is counted from nightfall to nightfall. Customarily, the lamps are placed in the menorah from right to left but lit from left to right, always kindling the newest light first.

"The lamps of the Chanukah menorah (or chanukiyah) are placed all at the same

height except for the shamash or helper lamp, which is typically higher than the others. In a candle or oil-fueled menorah, the shamash is used to light the other lamps.

"A glance at the chanukiyah's configuration tells of the rewards for helping others as the shamash lowers itself to serve the others.

"As every action is preceded by a blessing, so is the action of lighting the lamps or candles accompanied with the blessings commemorating why we light them. And each evening we dedicate the new candle with a different theme."

The candles represent Freedom, Family, Study, Holiness, Righteousness, Sharing, Light and Peace.

County

Continued from Page 1

light meeting, with most agenda items approved.

Ahead of the meeting, Terri Hall spoke in open forum asking the court to be more clear on some of the agenda items.

In commissioners comments, Pct. 1 Commissioner Anne Overby said she spent time visiting with Kelly Hoffer, supervisor of the county road and bridge department, and learned more about their staff and operations.

Pt. 2 Commissioner Rich Paces said the burn ban was still lifted at this time. Regarding the Center Point sewer project, he said the process was slow and "painful," and greatly behind on phases 2 and 3. Anyone with complaints would need to contact GrantWorks.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Jonathan Letz said north winds will dry the air and hoped to get more rain.

Pct. 4 Commissioner Don Harris said the stock show season is starting, and this Saturday will feature the West Kerr 4-H youngsters at their own show. Some attended the meeting to introduce themselves to the court. (See photo).

Kerr County Clerk Ian Collum asked for approval of joint contracts and resolutions which are signed prior to every election. The documents are needed to keep the process running smoothly. He said they were approved by county attorney Heather Stebbins, and appear on the Texas Secretary of State website. Associated costs, when prepared, will be attached to the contract.

Judge Rob Kelly said that the Republican and Democrat political parties agreed to do this process. Bob Reeves, county tax collector/assessor, said the cost difference is very minimal if any. This year, here the Republican and Democrat chairs decided to do a joint primary, so the cost will be minimal.

District Clerk Dawn Lantz told the court that upcoming civil filing fees, citation services and writs were going up

in price on Jan. 1, 2024.

The management office for Texas Department of Emergency Management will be officed in the county's Ingram annex for the county liaison officer and a training officer.

Dub Thomas also discussed the cash purchase option for the county's hazard mitigation plan. The cash option has \$90,000 that may be distributed among as many as 10 participants, or as few as two.

The plan will be used in conjunction with a \$1 million project but there must be a plan submitted in order for the county to participate, which TDEM is awaiting.

Each plan has to address 15 natural hazards defined by FEMA, from hurricanes, fires, floods, erosion etc. and more, but time is of the essence.

The court received a request to use Flat Rock Park for overflow parking, loading and staging of trailers, during the Texas Pork Producers Elite Showcase on Feb. 8-11, 2024.

HCYEC facilities manager Jake Williamson provided an annual report for 2022, with new bookings and recurring events. There were a lot of great events still going on, he said, with 422 event days (since there was more than one facility) booked.

The facility made more revenue due to mixed beverage liquor license bringing the highest revenue ever. Expenses at the HCYEC were also the highest due to inflation, Williamson said.

Williamson said the facility still made its budgetary goals, which he called a success. There was a 33 percent attendance at non profit events.

The event days had a bump due to post covid, but in this past year, there a little tail-off to more normal levels.

Revenues went up by 270 percent, and 92 percent of people at the HCYEC came from Texas, mostly from Austin, Dallas and Houston.

Gibson's seems to be one of the top attractions visitors seek to visit.

The old indoor arena remains derelict and needs renovation, and River Star Park needs some upgrades as well. Williamson said that calls have come in to restart

the Kerr County Fair.

With two rodeos, most equine business has been flat due to no adequate barn or stalls.

The court approved a number of incentives to the management group, totaling \$12,500 out of the maximum of \$15,000 based on performance.

Kelly reported that due to the recent population growth, Kerr County is pursuing possibilities through an Alamo Area Council of Governments grant for Texas Department of Transportation expansion of public transportation. It may grow by five new routes, and even a route from Kerrville to San Antonio.

There is still no commitment but the offer presents an opportunity for the future.

The court agreed that Kerrville has local people to whom such a service by Alamo Regional Transit would be a huge boost, with commuters coming and going between neighboring counties. A workshop may be planned to address the various questions.

The Veterans Pathway sidewalk project connecting VA with Flat Rock and River Trail will advertise for bids that will be opened Jan. 8.

In other matters, the court postponed the Paloma Ranch request to have the county maintain its road, which is 0.683 miles long.

Hoffer listed a summary of annual bids for road materials, for the court's information. The bids were accepted, some of which actually were lower this year.

Gary Noller submitted the quarterly report by the Veterans Services Advisory Committee, and the court accepted its recommendation to replace outgoing member Byron Warren with Toby Appleton. Chase Allsup was named new assistant to the Kerr County VSO. They do not charge the veterans any fees for their services.

Noller said Jenna Sanches and Allsup have been successful in obtaining new benefits for veterans. He added that a new law passed in Washington allows all World War II veterans the right to apply for full benefits, regard-

less of their status. The average age for these veterans is about 96.

He said that this year's Veterans Day parade generated more interest and hoped it would happen again.

Sheriff Larry Leitha said that with 80 percent complete, the new county-wide radio system (GATRS) is expected to be finished in June 2024, and should be running with no problems. Their old radios will be scrapped and will no longer be connected by then.

Kerr Central Appraisal District board members will be on the ballot again. Harris asked that while the county does not make decisions for KCAD, "we can influence some of them." The court approved for Jack Burch to have 253 votes, 227 for Wesley Holekamp and Lary Priour for the rest, with the three to carry a total of 1,230 votes.

Collum received approval for a revised, clarified and updated list of descriptions

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Entertainment



Courtesy photo

Michael Martin Murphey's world-famous "Cowboy Christmas" returns to The Cailloux Theater for one night only this Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30. Remaining available seats are priced from \$25 to \$35.

Michael Martin Murphey's 'Cowboy Christmas' Saturday

One of the most popular events in the Hill Country's holiday calendar returns to The Cailloux Theater this weekend when Michael Martin Murphey presents the 31st edition of his famous "Cowboy Christmas" this Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30.

A loyal son of Texas, Murphey is best known for his chart-topping hits "Wildfire," "Carolina In The Pines," "What's Forever For," "Long Line of Love," "Geronimo's Cadillac," "Cowboy Logic" and many more across his 35 albums

released to date.

His annual "Cowboy Christmas" offers an extraordinary blend of music, poetry, storytelling and visual art to beautifully capture the rustic essence of the story of Jesus' birth in the countryside village of Bethlehem, where the joyous tidings first reached the humble herders – people we'd now call "cowboys" – so long ago.

Tickets for "Cowboy Christmas" are still available in the theater's upper sections, priced from \$25 to \$35.

Tickets for all Cailloux

Theater events, plus gift certificates for all future events, can be purchased through The Cailloux Box Office, 910 Main St., either in person or by telephone, (830) 896-9393, or online at CaillouxPerformingArts.com, where a small convenience fee will apply.

The Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts is managed on behalf of The City of Kerrville by Playhouse 2000, Inc. More information is available at CaillouxPerformingArts.com

Final weekend

At left are Ken DeZarn as Scrooge and David Cummings as Marley in a scene from "A Christmas Carol," now in its final weekend at The Point Theatre. Call 830-367-5121 for tickets or visit hcaf.com.



Emily DeZarn photo

Kerrville Renaissance Festival announces dates for 2024

The Kerrville Renaissance Festival 2024 returns to the River Star Arts and Events Park for three weekends on Jan. 20, 21; Jan. 27, 28; and Feb. 3, 4, 2024. Gates are open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., rain or shine.

Now in its eighth year, the medieval event organized by Hill Country residents April Cory and Hal Robinson brings six days of Renaissance-flavored fun, entertainment, food, crafts, games and general merriment.

Eight stages of entertainment feature both returning and new acts, including dancers, musicians, magicians, jugglers and contests, plus Last Chance Forever, The Bird of Prey Conservancy. Schedule to be posted at www.KerrvilleRenFest.com.

Renaissance Festival Marketplace offers more than 30 shops offering handmade crafts such as wooden toys, leather accessories, clothing, hats, glassware,



Courtesy photo

The Kerrville Renaissance Festival 2024 returns to the River Star Arts and Events Park for three weekends.

jewelry and more.

Over at the Food Court, guests will find food offerings such as funnel cake, cinnamon-roasted nuts, crepes, turkey legs, kettle corn, jerky, spaghetti cones, mac n cheese brisket, paired with craft beer, wine, mead and more drink options.

The event takes place at the River Star Arts and Events Park, on the grounds of the

Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Hwy. 27, Kerrville, with free onsite parking.

Information and Advance Discount Tickets are available online at www.KerrvilleRenFest.com or by calling 214-632-5766:

Admission: Adult \$13.95
Children 5-12 \$6.95
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adaptation by Sarah Derosse
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In the indoor theatre!
Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol
adaptation by Sarah Derosse
Nov. 25 - Dec. 17

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DANCE
DANCE
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Peterson Health receives top rural hospital award

Peterson Health was named a Top Rural Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, a prestigious award widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive recognitions American hospitals can receive.

The Leapfrog Group is a national watchdog organization known as the toughest standard-setters for health-care safety and quality. Top Hospitals were honored on Dec. 5 at the 2023 Leapfrog Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

"We are incredibly proud to be recognized by The Leapfrog Group for this

achievement. Safety, quality outcomes, and patient experience drive everything we do at Peterson, and this award reinforces that when you do the right thing for the right reasons great things happen," said Cory Edmondson, president and CEO of Peterson Health.

"This achievement is a result of the entire team across all areas of the organization, with our medical staff playing a key role. It would not be possible without the support of this community, our donors who help us with capital to provide world-class care, and the

local leaders who volunteer their time and talents as board members. This is the crown jewel of a long list of awards and accolades, and I could not be prouder of our team," he said.

More than 2,100 hospitals were considered for the award. A total of 132 Top Hospitals were selected, including eight Top Children's, 25 Top General, 15 Top Rural, and 74 Top Teaching hospitals.

Quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the rigorous qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care, and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors.



Courtesy photo

Peterson Health accepts the Top Rural Hospital award at the 2023 Leapfrog Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. From left are Cory Edmondson, president and CEO, Sheila Donovan, quality nurse auditor, Elaine Ivey, director of quality services, and Dr. Christopher Glanton, chief medical officer.

Gillespie Livestock Co. Inc. December 6, 2023

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House Plan



The Wellington: A Modern Duplex Plan for Elevated Living

Wellington PLAN 60-066

DUPLEX	UNIT A	UNIT B
First Floor	1289 sq.ft.	1289 sq.ft.
Second Floor	583 sq.ft.	583 sq.ft.
Basement	176 sq.ft.	176 sq.ft.
Living Area	1968 sq.ft.	1968 sq.ft.
Garage	496 sq.ft.	496 sq.ft.
Total Dimensions	54' x 51'	

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Nestled on an up-hill sloping lot, the Wellington duplex plan offers a modern and sophisticated living experience across three thoughtfully designed floors. With two mirrored units, each boasting 1968 square feet of living space, this duplex plan is perfect for those seeking a combination of comfort, convenience, and style.

As you approach the Wellington, you're greeted by a spacious two-car garage, providing ample space for vehicles and additional storage. Off the garage, a mud hall and under-stair storage closet add a practical touch, ensuring a clutter-free entryway and easy organization of daily essentials.

Ascending the stairs, the split-level entryway welcomes you to a generous landing, setting the stage for the inviting spaces that await. The front door opens to reveal a bright and airy layout, seamlessly blending style and functionality.

At the heart of the Wellington, the great room creates a cohesive living space that fosters togetherness and connectivity. The open design allows for effortless interaction, making it an ideal environment for entertaining guests or spending quality time with family.

Located off the dining room, a hallway leads to the owners' suite, offering a private retreat that is both spacious and serene. With views overlooking the front of the home, this suite boasts a private bath with a walk-in shower, dual vanities, and a walk-in closet, providing a haven for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Ascending to the top floor, a vaulted loft area offers a unique vantage point, overlooking the staircase below. This versatile space can be customized to suit your lifestyle, whether as a cozy reading nook or a play area for children.

Adjacent to the loft, two bedrooms with vaulted ceilings provide comfortable and private spaces for family members or guests. These bedrooms share a compartmentalized bathroom with twin sinks, ensuring convenience and functionality for all occupants.

The Wellington duplex plan

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	6			9		7
		5	4			9
	7			2		1 3
8					5 4	
1		3	6		7	
		2			4	6
	4			3		2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solution on Page 11

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Outdoors

Seasonal things

We are not through with winter even though the temperatures have seemed really mild. Now is a good time to do “winter things.”

Be certain that your pipes are protected. For those plants that you cared for all summer and plants that you’ve put in the ground in the fall, it is advisable to water every 10 days or two weeks if there is no rain.

Roots keep growing all winter long, even though plants appear to have stopped growing above ground. The moisture also helps plants through cold spells.

If you haven’t already mulched everything, get this chore behind you.

If you haven’t already, cut your indigo spires, Mexican bush sage, and other plants that freeze back to the ground. Anything that freezes to the ground will benefit by having a heavy mulch over it through winter. This may be raked back when spring gets here.

The best thing about cold weather is that trees go dormant, and it is perfect for planting new trees or transplanting trees or shrubs that have volunteered in a place that they don’t belong.

When planting and transplanting in cold weather, be careful that you don’t leave the roots of trees exposed to the cold for more than a few minutes. The roots can freeze quickly and cause damage.

It is also imperative that you are careful during planting to water well and eliminate all the air pockets into which the cold can filter down and cause root damage.

After planting during cold weather, it is OK to mulch with a loose mulch thickly around the base and trunks of trees. Usually it is best not to mulch up the trunk of a tree, but a newly planted tree in

The Dirt on Hill Country Gardening



David Steinbrunner
Linda Tarrant

winter is an exception.

Roses will also appreciate a mulch covering the crown of their roots. This mulch should be pulled away from the roots in the spring and left to cover the root zone, but not cover the crown of the trunk during the warm months.

Personal Plant of the Week:

The recommended plant of the week is the **Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*). This semi-evergreen to evergreen shrub is large, up to 15 feet tall with a spread of 12 feet. There are some beautiful specimens at the Bank of the Hills. These can be used as a hedge or pruned into a small tree.

Indians used the berries for soap and candles, and birds find them delicious. Wax Myrtle tolerates all types of soil and is resistant to types of root fungus in the Hill Country.

Chores for this week:

- Prepare for cold weather.
- Cover your pipes.
- Mulch, if you haven’t already.
- Plant cold tolerant plants and trees.
- Prepare for Happy Holidays!

We encourage your questions, comments, or your own “Personal Plant of the Week” by writing David at dsteiny@gvtc.com.

Linda Tarrant is an Ingram gardener and David Steinbrunner is a Hunt horticulturist.

Last-minute shopping? No need to go far

Are you looking for a road trip with not too far to go to do some Christmas shopping?

If so, then consider Comfort, Texas. Not only are there wineries to visit but also eclectic shops like this one — Shopping with Siobhain’s Unique Treasures and Gifts.

You probably recognize her from being the weather girl on Channel 4 and Channel 29 out of San Antonio. She has shops in Comfort, Boerne and San Antonio which feature unusual décor and gifts: “natural, vintage, antique and one-of-a-kind trinkets” according to her Facebook page.

But that’s not all! If you’re hungry for a treat they have pies available too, so while you’re Christmas shopping

Explore Texas



Carol Wier

you can pick up a little homemade snack!

There’s also furniture, rugs, purses, candles, skins, lamps, etc. for sale. It’s fun to at least take a look! There’s always a special going on like this weekend’s 25 percent off on rugs and furniture.

With holiday hours extended to Sundays, it’s time to head on over to Comfort for



Shopping with Siobhain store in Comfort.

some fun.

While you’re there, check out the Christmas lights just south of there at the Crumbling Castle. The drive-through lights are at 571 FM 289, which parallels I-10.

Open until Jan. 1st, it’s time to make the season even more magical than it already is.

Carol Wier, former science teacher and resident of Hunt, now lives in Vanderpool.

White-tailed research in Kerr suffers blow

That title is misleading. Research isn’t dead. And may it never be! But the future of white-tailed deer research suffered a near-fatal blow this fall.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported that chronic wasting disease was detected in a captive whitetail buck in the research pens at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area in Kerr County. All deer in the Research Pens were euthanized by TPWD staff.

The Kerr WMA includes 6,493-acres and is situated in the heart of the Edwards Plateau habitat. Deer on the rest of the area other than in the research pens are still there — except for some removed during “public drawn hunts” this season.

But that means the nearly 50 years of research into whitetail science is temporarily halted. The records from those years are still available, however, there might need to be an asterisk in the data for the time following the fall of 2023 and later unless research is resumed soon.

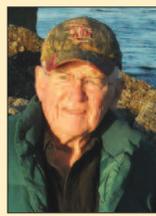
It’s too soon to know what will happen. Currently, there are no plans to restock the research pens.

There is some outside chatter about TPWD having not established surveillance or containment zones quickly near the Kerr Area, as it did when CWD was discovered in private breeder pens. That complaint, too, is premature. This occurred suddenly. Timing interfered.

The complaints are reminiscent of the old definition of a spilt second: That instant after the light turns green before the car behind you honks its horn! It takes time to draw the zones, solicit and take public comments, move employees around to staff check stations, and for the commission to act on the zones.

That’s a slow process whenever CWD is discovered; it’s more of a challenge during holidays and hunting

Woods, Waters & Wildlife



John Jefferson

seasons. Employees are already involved in check stations where CWD has been confirmed. The complainants could have given TPWD an instant or two more before honking. That was an easy rock to throw. But it may have boomeranged.

I contacted TPWD’s Wildlife Director, John Silovsky, and Big Game Program Director, Alan Cain. Zones for Cherokee and Medina counties— where CWD was detected in breeder pens prior to detection at Kerr WMA — have not been approved yet by the TPW Commission.

CWD wasn’t detected in time for the November Commission meeting. The agenda for the Jan. 24-25, 2024 Commission meeting is yet to be finalized, but it’s expected that Zones for those counties plus Kerr and Coleman counties could be on the agenda.

Cessation of the white-tailed deer research, though, is a real concern. Kerr WMA research through the years has provided significant information to Texas hunters, landowners and wildlife managers regarding heritability of antler characteristics and the effect of too many mouths to feed on marginal habitat.

Much useful information also has been disseminated concerning rotating livestock herds and the beneficial use of fire to improve habitats.



Photo by John Jefferson

Pictured is “Big Charlie,” the legendary sire of many deer in research pens at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area in Kerr County. Not visible in the image are the palmated, moose-like antlers he carried. Big Charlie was born in the deer pens at Texas A&M and spent most of his life at the Kerr Area. Much valuable whitetail research has been conducted there.

Kerr research has awakened deer managers throughout America, too.

And to those of us with

personal connections to the area, it’s saddening.

John Jefferson is an Austin-based outdoors writer.

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	A. M.	P. M.	SUN	MOON	MOON					
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets	Up	Down
December										
14 Thu >	6:20	12:05	6:51	12:36	07:23	05:37	9:19a	7:21p	2:19p	1:48a
15 Fri >	7:27	1:11	7:57	1:42	07:24	05:37	10:13a	8:32p	3:20p	2:50a
16 Sat	8:32	2:18	9:01	2:47	07:25	05:38	10:59a	9:43p	4:18p	3:49a
17 Sun	9:35	3:21	10:01	3:48	07:25	05:38	11:39a	10:52p	5:12p	4:46a
18 Mon	10:32	4:19	10:57	4:44	07:26	05:38	12:14p	NoMoon	6:02p	5:38a
19 TueQ	11:23	5:11	11:47	5:35	07:26	05:39	12:46p	NoMoon	6:50p	6:27a
20 WedQ	-----	5:59	12:10	6:22	07:27	05:39	1:17p	1:03a	7:37p	7:14a

*Major=2 hours/Minor=1 hour Times are centered on the major/minor window
F = Full Moon N = New Moon Q = Quarter > = Peak Activity!
*Daylight Saving Time in effect

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Sports

Warriors named All-District

First Team:
Hightower, Pritt,
Duckworth, Priddy

By Louis Amestoy
Special to the Current

Four Ingram Tom Moore High School football players earned all-district honors for their efforts during the 2023 football season.

Quarterback Kye Hightower earned first-team honors for his kick-returning and athletic prowess while also earning a second-team selection at quarterback.

Hightower, who rushed for more than 1,200 yards, was dangerous whenever he touched the football on kick or punt returns.

“He’s a tremendous football player; I think he is the best football player in Kerr County,” Tom Moore Football Coach Tate De Masco said of Hightower. “He’s always a threat every time he touches the ball.”

Other first-team picks were:

Senior Caleb Pritt (photo unavailable) on the offensive line. “He transferred in and



Kye Hightower

started 15 games for us the last couple of years,” De Masco said. “Had a great year and has a couple of colleges looking at him to maybe play at the next level.”

Junior Alex Duckworth on the defensive line. “He was our most improved player over the year,” De Masco said. “He was really hard to block in the interior of our defensive line.”

Senior Zeph Priddy at linebacker. “Zeph has been one of our most productive players the last couple of years,” De Masco said. “He is a do it all player. He was a big part of



Alex Duckworth

our Defensive Scheme. He will be hard to replace.”

Second-team picks were: Junior Maverick Delgado at wide receiver.

Senior Javier Hyunh on the defensive line.

Senior Cason Johnson at linebacker.

Sophomore Bowden Zipp at defensive back.

Freshman Christian Carranza at kicker.

“The thing that jumps out to me about these guys is that they are all team guys and play extremely hard,” De Masco said of the Warriors’ second-team selections. “It’s a



Zeph Priddy

good mixture of some young kids and some seniors. The seniors will be hard to replace but we are getting closer to making a playoff run.”

Honorable mention picks were: Junior offensive lineman Andrew Limon, junior linebacker Andres Boites, junior offensive lineman Cole Blackledge, junior linebacker Peyton Middleton, senior defensive back Jack Sharp, senior defensive lineman Ty Merkel, senior tight end Hunter Brackeen, sophomore offensive lineman Chris Alva and junior defensive lineman Noah Collins.



Photos by Tony Gallucci

Lady Warrior Cadence Woodruff takes a shot against Eden.

Lady Warriors get win in Sabinal Tournament

By Clint Schroeder
West Kerr Current

The Ingram Lady Warrior basketball team competed in the Sabinal Tournament last weekend and came away with another win.

The Lady Warriors beat Knippa 32 to 24. Raylie Neutze had 10 points, Brooke Alvarado had 10 and Alec Alvarado had 6 (and made the all tournament team).

The team has had a number of close losses in the tournament, one against Sabinal, 39-34, on Dec. 8.

Brooke Alvarado was the high scorer in that game with 6 points, followed by Alec Alvarado and Raylie Neutze with 4 each.

Alec Alvarado also had 10 steals in the game and Woodruff had four. Neutze and Payton Edgar each had three offensive rebounds.

The team lost by a point to IDEA Najim, 27-28.

The Alvarados were the top scorers in that game, too, with Brooke scoring 8 and Alec 7; Edgar had 6. Alec Alvarado had five steals; Neutze, 4.

The team lost to D’Hanis 34-39.

Brooke Alvarado scored 9 points and Alec Alvarado scored 8; Neutze had 7 and Woodruff, 5.

The team was to have played Devine on Tuesday, Dec. 12, and have an open date on Friday, Dec. 15.

Predictions show ITM in SA-based district

The future of Ingram Tom Moore High School football looks like it will take a San Antonio slant for the 2024-2025 season, with the Warriors facing familiar foes.

“Realignment is always crazy,” Ingram Tom Moore High School football coach Tate De Masco said. “Things happen you don’t expect. But we are excited about next year and discovering who our opponents will be.”

One University Interscholastic League 3A Division 1 District 13 prediction is Ingram with San Antonio Cole, San Antonio Randolph, South San Antonio West, Llano, Marion and Luling. The Warriors were 1-4 against those opponents in 2023.

That prediction is from longtime Texas High School football expert Carlos Padilla. The 3A enrollment figures are approximately 380 to 590 students.

ITM’s projected enrollment is 422, making it the second-smallest school in the district.

De Masco rolled out a first look at the first six weeks of the 2024 football season, with scrimmages against Mason and Junction in August before kicking off the regular season against Crystal City, Bandera, Comfort and Blanco. The remaining schedule is to be determined.

— Louis Amestoy



Warrior Coach Ray Fierro maps strategy against Needville.

Warriors add wins

The Ingram Warrior basketball team added a couple of wins to their season record in last weekend’s Comfort Tournament.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the team lost to Bandera 40-53.

The team won two games on Friday, Dec. 8: 51-43 against Hondo and 64-41 against Uvalde.

The team lost to Needville 45-56 on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Aiden Rendon was the high scorer against Needville with 11 points, followed by Will Symm with 10. Ethan Rendon and Justin Salinas each had 6.

The team was to have played Pearasal in an away game Tuesday, Dec. 12, and will play Center Point at home this Friday, Dec. 15.

The Warriors are 8-5 for the season.



Photos by Tony Gallucci

Warrior Ethan Rendon confronts a Needville defender.



Lady Warrior Jaycee Crawley looks for a rebound against Eden.

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TexSCAN Week of Dec. 10-16, 2023

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BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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GARAGE SALE

Huge garage sale
1225 Jack Dr.
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Sat. Dec. 16 8-3
Furniture, household appliances, dishes, tons of stuff.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which Disney animated movie features the song "Whistle While You Work"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which two oceans are on Russia's shores?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called euphoria?
- TELEVISION: What is "The Simpsons" home address?
- GAMES: How many dimples are on a golf ball?
- ASTRONOMY: Earth's place in the solar system is how many planets from the Sun?
- LANGUAGE: What is the only country in South America whose official language is Dutch?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a sweetbread?
- LITERATURE: In which century was "The Canterbury Tales" written?
- SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of modern astronomy?

Answers

- "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."
- Arctic and Pacific.
- Fear of good news.
- 742 Evergreen Terrace.
- Generally between 300-500.
- Third.
- Suriname.
- Internal organs of a young animal.
- Late 14th century.
- Copernicus.

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Beautiful for the tree lighting at the Ingram Y. Chair Johnna Curle extended thanks to Ingram VFD volunteers for their assistance.

Hunt VFD President Kirk Griffin thanked the community for supporting their fall meat sale.

"We have been doing this for the last 15 years or so. This year was incredible, and a lot of it was donated money. We sold over 120 hams, 100 turkeys and 80 pork shoulders and donated leftovers to the Methodist and Baptist churches. We cleared more than \$10,000.

"Also last month we went through Narcan training. We've got an issue in our part of the world where you roll up on an accident you find people who may have overdosed, so our department now carries Narcan. We will be able to offer that if we have some kind of situation."

Amy Bush, owner of Sage Investments, asked, "Do people mean to take fentanyl or are they surprised they got it?" "That is the \$64,000 question," replied Griffin. "The drug dealers put fentanyl in because it is cheaper than putting the other narcotics in, so it is an affordable killer. It gets crushed and added into other drugs. If you get it on your skin, you'll absorb it. As a first responder it is one of the big problems we worry about."

Griffin added, "The Hunt VFD has started collecting flags that have lived their life. There is a bin out front at the station. We had a flag burning ceremony on Veterans Day and plan to have another on Flag Day. We had over 100 flags."

Austin Dickson reported, "The Community Foundation is doing well. We have made \$150,000 in grants to West Kerr County charities and civic causes in 2023 which has been the most ever.

"We also partnered with Mini-Mart this year to raise money for volunteer fire departments. We were their fiscal sponsor and collected several hundred thousand dollars over the course of this year with distributions including West Kerr. We were happy to help with the lighting of the tree. We didn't do much of anything; it was really the volunteers."

Laura Ann Wagner, owner of The Creek Boutique, reminded everyone to bring gifts to the store this Saturday, Dec. 16, for free gift wrapping by ITM National Honor Society students. Donations to Honor Society are welcome.

The January 2024 First Thursday meeting will be Jan. 11 at 8:30 a.m., since the actual first Thursday in January may be too close to the holidays.

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Least 2. Escort;
3. Raise; 4. Great
Today's Word
TITLE
Puzzle on Page 4

4	9	1	7	5	3	2	6	8
5	2	7	1	8	6	9	3	4
3	6	8	2	4	9	1	5	7
2	3	5	4	7	1	6	8	9
6	7	4	9	2	8	5	1	3
8	1	9	3	6	5	4	7	2
1	8	3	6	9	2	7	4	5
7	5	2	8	1	4	3	9	6
9	4	6	5	3	7	8	2	1

Sudoku
Solution to Puzzle on Page 8

B	A	M		O	E	D		S	H	O	U	T	
L	E	E		I	D	E		L	I	B	R	A	
I	R	A		L	I	M	O	U	S	I	N	E	
P	I	N		S	T	O	V	E					
S	E	T	S		O	N	A		E	L	L	A	
				A	P	R		L	I	M	P	I	D
M	I	A	M	I				W	I	S	P	S	
L	I	M	B	E	R			G	O	T			
I	N	C	A		O	L	E		S	W	A	Y	
					J	A	U	N	T		E	E	E
L	I	M	B	U	R	G	E	R		E	I	N	
S	T	A	T	S			E	V	A		D	O	T
D	O	N	U	T			D	A	M		Y	U	L

Solution to Crossword on Page 4



Ingram Athletic Director Tate De Masco, center, accepts a very large check for \$1,000 from the Ingram Volunteer Fire Department for highest proceeds on painted rocking chair sales. He also received an appreciation award from IVFD. At left is Catherine Larson, and at right, Butch Baccus.

IVFD

Continued from Page 1

21 calls to grass/brush fires, 20 alarm activations, nine burn violations, seven fire/smoke scare calls and six incidents of illegal burning.

"There were only five structure fires, the least we've ever had," Lynch added.

Butch Baccus also told several anecdotes about the highly successful auction featuring 22 large rocking chairs painted at the various schools and sold off afterward.

Baccus recounted the stories of the various chairs which were auctioned off. Most of them were on display at the open house at the fire station earlier this year.

Twenty-two chairs were donated to be painted, and entries came in from many different area high schools. There were some memorable chairs, including a multi-colored "dream coat" chair, Baccus said.

It was actually never seen by the public, because it had already been bought by a couple from San Antonio and taken away right away. They had made a "Name your price" offer amount and whisked it away, sight unseen.

ITM Athletic Director Tate De Masco accepted a \$1,000 check to be used by the school athletic department, whose chair raised the most money at the auction.

Lynch announced that IVFD has begun the procedure of purchasing 3,000-gallon tanker through Kerr County Emergency Services District No. 1.



Photos by Irene Van Winkle

Anne Lippman was named most Improved Firefighter of the Year. She is seen here with Fire Chief Ray Lynch.



Long term award for service went to Bart Baccus (35 years) and Aaron "AJ" Salter (five years).

Veterans

Continued from Page 1

tion for career or military service. Ingram's performance has consistently shown its graduates are well-prepared for the workforce or military.

The goal is to fill in the

information from those who have served, including those who have retired. The effort focuses on connecting with those who have served but who also got their start in the

school district.

For more information about the program, you can contact Ingram ISD's communications department at lamestoy@ingramisd.net.

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