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Burnet Bulletin



Burnet, Texas

Hometown newspaper of Robert Brent, Jr.

BurnetBulletin.com

Joseph’s Hammer closer to groundbreaking on prison worship center

Special to the Bulletin

By now you may have heard of a little-known resource in our community, the Ellen Halbert Women’s Prison. The Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Center in Burnet provides women with a six-month drug and alcohol treatment program.

The State of Texas built the prison in the 90’s but ran out of funds before a Chapel was built. For over 25 years,

volunteers have been gathering in cramped classrooms to worship, offer Bible Studies and lead faith-based classes for these women.

Joseph’s Hammer directors formed the non-profit in 2018 to build a Worship Center at the prison when they saw that women were being turned away from worship and Bibles Studies due to lack of space. Recently they met with Warden Williams and Chaplain

Cartwright, confirming a common goal: “We don’t want any woman to miss an opportunity to learn about God’s love while they are at Halbert.”

While most of the Halbert women are serving for the first time in prison, others are completing the treatment program before they return home from a longer sentence. Either way, the women at Halbert

Worship... see Page 3



Contributed
The Board of Joseph’s Hammer met with Chaplain Mark Cartwright and Warden Patricia Williams to discuss the progress of the worship center at the Ellen Halbert Unit in Burnet. Pictured, from left are: Davey Haberer, Chaplain Cartwright, Paige Lechler, Warden Williams and Pam Stevenson.

Celebrate the season on the square

From staff reports

The Burnet Chamber of Commerce is delivering a winter wonderland to downtown Burnet on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Christmas on the Square includes a snow slide and snow play area, live music, a parade, over 125 vendors, pony rides and a visit from Santa Claus.

The fun and festivities will take place from noon to 8 p.m. Events include:

- Noon to 8 p.m. Vendor booths open to the public;
- Noon to 4 p.m. Snow on the Square;
- Noon to 5 p.m. Live entertainment and Christmas music;
- Noon Studio 29 Dance Centre
- 12:45 p.m. Denise Moreau
- 2 p.m. Karis and Kalena
- 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church
- 4 p.m. Roger Moore and Richard Hausman
- Noon Kids’ Jingle Bell jog;
- 12:15 p.m. Jingle Bell jog;



Contributed
Christmas revelers can get photos with Santa Clause on Thursday, Dec. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 105 W. Washington St. in Burnet.

- 5 p.m. Christmas Parade — line up starts at 3:45 p.m.

The parade stages near the Burnet Community Center on Jackson Street. It travels down Jackson Street to the historic square and turns north on Pierce Street before making its way around the square and returning to the community center;

- 5:30 p.m. Bicycle raf-

fle; and

- 6 to 9 p.m. Pictures with Santa on the courthouse steps.
- Other Local Christmas Events:
- Burnet Trail of Lights at Wallace Riddell Park 6 to 10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1;
 - Christmas at Old Ft. Croghan Dec. 11 5 to 8 p.m.;
 - Main Street Bethlehem Dec. 11 5:30 to 9 p.m.

‘Banned’ Llano books unavailable for review

By Phil Reynolds Contributing Writer

Two children’s books removed from the Llano County Library System as being inappropriate will not be available for public scrutiny, Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham said Monday.

The two books are *I Need a New Butt* by Dawn McMillan and *Freddie the Farting Snowman* by Jane Bexley. Both are available online from Amazon — the McMillan either as an e-book or a paperback, the Bexley volume only as an e-book. Both books are intended for children.

Amazon quotes Norman Public Schools (with no further location given) as saying

about *I Need a New Butt*: “A silly story that will cause boys and girls to giggle from beginning to end!”

Amazon says of *Freddie the Farting Snowman*, “This book is appropriate for ALL AGES who don’t mind silly toot humor (that is not overly gross)” (emphasis Amazon’s).

McMillan, a New Zealand author, writes “both funny and serious” children’ books, according to her biography. Less information is available about Bexley, whose books appear to specialize in flatulence for children. Both authors have written several books besides the two under discussion.

The controversy over the books arose after some

Llano County residents protested at the Commissioners Court meeting Monday, Nov. 8, complaining of “inappropriate” books being made available to minors at the Llano County Library System. The system has libraries in Llano, Buchanan Dam and Kingsland.

The discussion continued at the next Commissioners Court meeting, with Cunningham pointing out that he and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Don Moss had inspected some library books and removed two — the two cited above, though the titles were not given at the time.

Books... see Page 3

Animal noise complaints prevalent in county

By Connie Swinney Staff Writer

Spicewood resident Joel Mayor expected a more tranquil environment as he settled into his rural country home in Spicewood.

However, such a serene scene within the Ranches at Double Horn has changed during the past year-and-a-half as one neighbor began grow-

ing a fowl collection.

“People will move out here to the peaceful country and have to listen to that all day long,” he said. “This is definitely nonstop, constant crowing.” The crowing is apparently deriving from dozens of roosters being raised on a section of the property.

The property is located on five acres on an undeveloped

parcel in the subdivision.

The owner, who did not return attempts by The Highlander to contact him or family members by phone and on social media, also owns a property in the city of Granite Shoals, according to Burnet Central Appraisal District documents.

Mayor and a number of his neighbors have reported the

issue to Burnet County Sheriff’s Office and investigators surmised the challenge of pursuing a criminal case.

“We have this situation repeat itself in multiple parts of this county,” BCSO Livestock Deputy Jason Jewett said. “They’re dotted throughout the county.”

Noise... see Page 3



Contributed
An aerial quadcopter view from an adjacent property revealed housing for dozens of roosters on a property on CR 404 in Spicewood.



Wayne Craig/
Clear
Memories

Burnet head girls’ basketball coach Rick Gates goes over strategy with the varsity Lady Dawgs during a time out at Tuesday’s game in Marble Falls. See the full story on Page 12.

Burnet Rainfall

Week ended Dec. 5:

0.04 inches

Month to Date:

0.04 inches

YTD: 33.95 inches



Any weather conditions occurring after 8 a.m. Sunday will be reported the following week.

Source: Hugh McCoy
Hamilton Creek Drive

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News

Worship

From Page 1

will soon be released back to communities and neighborhoods all over Texas. Their children and families will benefit if they return with renewed hearts and minds. The recidivism rate is greatly reduced when women go through faith-based programs

while they are incarcerated. As Joseph's Hammer's team of architects and engineers work with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to put the final touches on plans for the 8250 sq. ft. facility, the vision will soon become a reality. Having met their initial fundraising goal of \$1,100,000 for the Worship Center, Directors expect the final cost will be much higher

due to rising cost of materials. They look forward to the day when TDCJ issues the Notice to Proceed, and the final bids will be completed to carry out this God-sized project. This holiday season, Joseph's Hammer wants to thank the Highland Lakes Community for partnering in this worthy endeavor. Your investment in the lives of

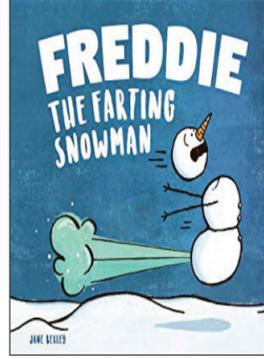
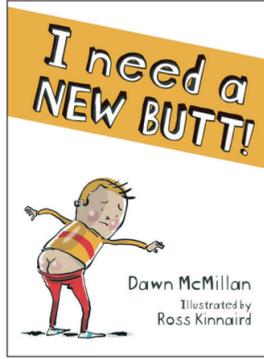
the estimated 1200 women who pass through the Halbert Unit each year will be ongoing. Year-end donations for the completion of the Worship Center can be mailed to Joseph's Hammer, P.O. Box 7960, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657. Or visit online www.josephshammer.org. Support Joseph's Hammer and help women in prison find freedom in Christ.

Books

From Page 1

At the same time, other speakers warned of censorship and Library Director Amber Milum added that parents can sign a document that controls what their children can check out of any of the county libraries. She added that parents also can receive e-mails that tell what books their children check out of the library. And Milum said books, CDs and other materials intended for

adult audiences are marked so a parent should be able to glance at the cover and tell what type of material the child has. Cunningham took the opportunity to refute a rumor that he had said librarians must monitor every book a child picks up. "I said parents have a responsibility to monitor their children," he said. "I will point out that it was said that city taxes help fund the libraries. That's not true. The county funds (all three libraries)," he added.



The "inappropriate" books received several reviews on Amazon as being suitable for all ages.

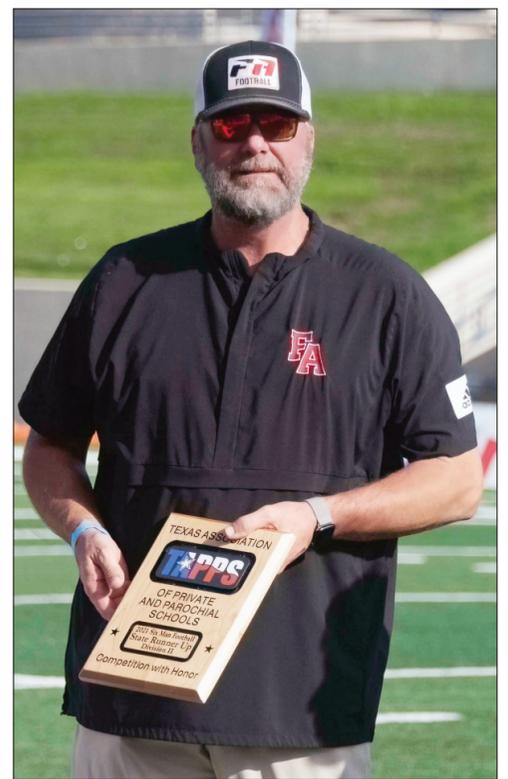


Photo by Stennis Shotts
Flames Head Coach Stephen Shipley holds the TAPPS Division 2 State runner up plaque after Thursday's game against Live Oak Classical.

Public access lease opens for Guadalupe River trout fishing

Special to the Bulletin
Anglers have the opportunity to target rainbow trout during the peak of cold-weather stocking and fishing season thanks to a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) "no fee" public access lease on the Guadalupe River. The site is at Camp Huaco Springs, which is located between New Braunfels and Sattler, featuring nearly a half-mile of bank access along alternating pools and riffles on the Guadalupe River. Anglers can utilize the bank, which is gently sloped and rocky, or wade fish both upstream and downstream. There is a low-water dam at the upper end of the property and deep pool at the lower end. Public access to the site is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes af-

ter sunset through Saturday, March 5, 2022, for angling from the banks and launching non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks, or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing. TPWD will stock this and other sections of the Guadalupe River, also known as the Canyon Reservoir Tailrace, with more than 20,000 rainbow trout during weekly stockings from early December through late-February. Camp Huaco Springs falls under the statewide trout regulations so, anglers may keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout with no minimum length limit. Trout anglers 17 years of age and older will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement. Anglers may find public access to the river in other areas being stocked with

trout – including Guadalupe Park, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – but should note that special regulations and limits are in effect starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge crossing on River Rd. Camp Huaco Springs is located at 4150 River Road in New Braunfels. For more information, or to find leased River Access and Conservation Areas on other rivers in Texas, visit the RACA program website.

Fishing enthusiasts can take part in rainbow trout stocking days on the Guadalupe River between New Braunfels and Sattler. Photo courtesy of Camp Huaco Springs.



Contributed/TPWD
Fishing enthusiasts can take part in rainbow trout stocking days on the Guadalupe River between New Braunfels and Sattler. Photo courtesy of Camp Huaco Springs.

Faith Academy comes up short in State title game

From staff reports

A fourth-quarter comeback bid by the Faith Academy of Marble Falls football team came up just a little short on Thursday, Dec. 2 in Waco as Live Oak Classical captured the TAPPS Division II title 46-41. The Falcons scored with five minutes left in the fourth quarter to extend their lead to 46-28, but the Flames responded quickly. It took them only a minute and half to answer with a touchdown to trim the lead to 12 points. Two minutes later, the Flames scored again to move the score to 46-41. Live Oak slammed the door with an onside kick recovery and drained the clock to raise the trophy. The Flames finished with a 12-1 overall record; they have progressed further in the TAPPS six-man football playoffs each year under head coach Stephen Shipley.



Contributed
Zina & Co Real Estate presented Santa Paws is Coming to Town on Dec. 4. Donations were collected for Living Love Animal Rescue. Pictured is Santa Claus with Whiskey Tango and Norman Smith.

Noise

From Page 1

He explained that the sheriff's office is aware of as many as two dozen to 50 such locations in unincorporated areas, including Smithwick, Spicewood and just off Texas 29 outside of Burnet. He acknowledged that he responded to concerns of the Ranches at Double Horn residents this year. As a result he researched the state law and county's animal ordinance. The county code does address animal "nuisance" issues but does not address roosters specifically, he explained. On the state level, a "noise nuisance" issue may fall under the Texas Penal Code's disorderly conduct category, however, a person must offer an official measure on a decibel meter from inside a residence. "My recommendations if you think it's over 85 decibels, the patrol side may be able to come out and do a reading (with an official meter).

Mayor said that neighbors have conducted such a reading utilizing a phone app, which amounted to 90 decibels from inside a bedroom of one of the adjacent residences. Their goal is to have an official reading from a meter conducted by a member of law enforcement. "We have homes on both sides of this area. New families that have just moved into these new houses," Mayor said. "It's about quality of life, especially for the family that is butting up against there. "They're having to deal with the brunt of all that." Chronically such an issue and/or alleging any nefarious behavior may pose a challenge. "A resident with 50 roosters raising to sell – there is a market out there for buying and collecting game roosters," Jewett said. "Just because they have them, doesn't mean they're breaking the law. "We can take action on roosters fighting. It's the act of forcing the animal to fight that is illegal," he said. "Unless we

can prove that act, we can't do anything about it." Jewett said each time he commiserates with those reporting the issue. "I agree with them when you have 100 roosters crowing, it's got to be annoying. I feel for them," he said. "It seems like every time I turn around, there's another one. "I tell them there's nothing I can do about this. Usually, I refer them back to their home-

owners associations if they have one," he added. "There's a possible civil action there, but we don't have a good criminal law that will apply." For the Mayors and their neighbors, their hope is that the property owner may respond to their concerns about the noise. "They buy property out here to build a home," he said. "Maybe get rid of the majority of them (the roosters)."

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