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New Braunfels

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JANUARY 15, 2013

Herald-ZEITUNG

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SERVING NEW BRAUNFELS SINCE 1852

Chicken law doesn't lay an egg

By Greg Bowen
The Herald-Zeitung

A proposed ordinance that would allow the keeping of chickens in New Braunfels neighborhoods didn't lay an egg Monday with city council.

The first reading of the ordinance, which would permit up to four hens — roosters would remain prohibited — on city lots of less than

Ordinance to allow fowl in city passes 1st reading

an acre was approved on a 5-2 vote.

The ordinance, which is designed to allow residents to become involved in the growing trend of small-scale, sustainable urban food production, would become law if approved on a sec-

ond reading at a future council meeting.

"There's a certain amount of pleasure in gathering your own eggs — and they taste really good," said Mayor Gale Pospisil, who voted in favor.

Pospisil's daughter-in-law raises

chickens for eggs. The mayor said she'd like to see the city's citizens have that same opportunity.

Councilman Ron Reaves, who along with Councilwoman Sandy Nolte voted against the proposal, said he raised Rhode Island reds and bantams as a young man, and

isn't sure the whole idea wouldn't be too much of a headache for residents and too costly for the city government.

"I can appreciate their value as a food source and the idea of a greener, healthier lifestyle, but if you consider the cost of housing, feeding and caring for the chickens,

See CHICKENS, Page 5

DINNER WITH THE ARTS HONOREES



SHAWN LEWIS | Herald-Zeitung

William "Bill" Kretzmeier, one of two Greater New Braunfels Arts Council honorees, practices Monday with Gemischter Chor Harmonie.

Arts lovers

Greater NB Arts Council to honor Bill Kretzmeier, Ann Young

By Betty Taylor
The Herald-Zeitung

Local arts patrons will be honored during the 33rd annual Dinner with the Arts on Saturday at New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center.

If you go

■ Tickets are \$35 each and can be bought at The Crossing, 322 W. San Antonio St., Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, or any council member.

Two New Braunfels citizens will receive the council's Lifetime Achievement awards for their commitments to furthering the arts in the New Braunfels community.

Ann Young has been involved in New Braunfels Community

Chorale and played a significant part in the Brauntex Theatre renovation. William "Bill" Kretzmeier has served as band and

See ARTS COUNCIL, Page 5



LAURA MCKENZIE | Herald-Zeitung

Ann Young stands Jan. 9 outside the Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre.

HOMELESSNESS IN COMAL COUNTY

Survey seeks answers about homelessness

Coalition plans 2 info-gathering sessions on Jan. 26

By Drew Stone
The Herald-Zeitung

Several organizations will be working this month to shine a brighter light on Comal County's growing homeless population.

On Jan. 26, Comal County Homeless Coalition will conduct a homeless survey to examine the causes of homelessness in the area and those affected by it.

The homeless who participate in the survey will receive care and supplies from area service organizations. Kellie Stallings, Connections executive director and event organizer, said she hopes the survey will raise awareness about the growing issue.

"We want the commu-

nity to be aware that this is an issue," she said. "The community won't be able to ignore this problem for much longer."

According to Comal and New Braunfels school districts, about 800 children are classified as homeless. That equates to about 350 families in Comal County who either do not have a permanent residence or have to share one with at least one other family.

Texas Homeless Network reports 56 percent of homeless dwellings include children, and 49 percent of the homeless surveyed are unemployed. The biggest reason listed for why families remain homeless is the inability to find affordable housing.

"The homeless population continues to grow here," Stallings said. "And it's not just transient homeless, but mostly people who are from New Braunfels and live here who are homeless. We need to speak with and help these people."

See SURVEY, Page 5

Dallas tears down ex-home of JFK assassin Oswald

DALLAS (AP)

A handful of history buffs and curious onlookers watched Monday as a bulldozer tore through the walls of a dilapidated apartment building where Lee Harvey Oswald lived a few months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The uninhabited 10-unit, two-story apartment com-



Oswald

plex built in 1925 was one of several remaining places tied to Kennedy's Nov. 22, 1963, assassination, which remains perhaps the most infamous moment in Dallas history.

Oswald lived at the building at 600 Elsbeth St. with his wife, Marina, and young daughter from November 1962 to March 1963.

The residence is mentioned in the Warren Commission report that investigated Kennedy's death and concluded Oswald acted alone.

WEATHER, 12
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Bond committee public input meeting tonight

From staff reports

The City of New Braunfels' Bond Advisory Committee will hold a second public input meeting at Renew Church, 2240 Farm-to-Market Road 725, at

6:30 p.m. today.

The New Braunfels City Council-appointed committee is charged with developing recommendations on potential propositions that could be presented to

voters during a proposed May 11 bond election.

The committee has had a series of meetings in which possible projects were identified and reviewed in the areas of drainage,

streets, parks, and municipal facilities.

Citizens are encouraged to attend tonight's meeting and express their ideas, concerns and questions.

The committee is scheduled to present its recommendations to council on Jan. 28. City council will consider the committee's input and, if it chooses, call the bond election.

ARTS COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

choir director in both the Comal and New Braunfels ISDs, choir director at several local churches and served as former director of Gemischer Chor Harmonie, the local German singing club.

New Braunfels Community Chorale and the Gemischer Chor Harmonie will perform at the dinner.

"We also will present some other individual awards," said Sara Sanderson, past council president.

Sanderson described the contributions of both Young and Kretzmeier to the local arts as "phenomenal."

About Ann Young

Young moved to New Braunfels in 1992, and became involved in the community immediately.

"I grew up being involved in the arts," she said. "I grew up in Missouri. My parents had season tickets to the symphony, and we would always go to college theater productions."

She joined New Braunfels Art League, the Music Study Club, New Braunfels Community Chorale and her church choir. She served as president of the Chorale for nine years; as a board member of the Greater New Braunfels Arts Council for five years, including two years as president; and was honored with the Emeritus Award in 2001 by the GNBAC. She also volunteered and performed in the Red Stocking Revues benefiting Community Service Center of New Braunfels.

Young is a founding member of Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre.

"In 1999, during Wassailfest, we lit the Brauntex sign back up," Young said. "One of the first productions was Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol.' That was put on by local townspeople. One of the first groups we brought in was the San Antonio Symphony."

She has been there from the beginning, when performers had to wait outside

under umbrellas in the rain because a lack of dressing rooms.

Those days are gone. The theater now boasts new dressing rooms.

Young said some of her favorite performances at the Brauntex included "Annie" and "The Manhattan Rhythm Kings." She also has written a book about the Brauntex renovation.

GNBAC member Susan Brewer, who nominated Young, used the words, "tireless, faithful and enthusiastic" when describing Young's work with the local arts.

About Bill Kretzmeier

William "Bill" Kretzmeier said music became part of his life as soon as he began taking piano lessons when he was about 8 or 9 years old. He sang in the choir at First Protestant Church and, after graduating from New Braunfels High School, he obtained a music degree from Texas Lutheran University in 1963.

Kretzmeier began his teaching career in San Antonio and continued in New Braunfels until 1993.

"I taught at South San Junior High and High School for six years, and then we moved to Taylor, Texas, where I taught at the middle school and high school level. I was the choir and assistant band director," he said.

In 1973, Kretzmeier began teaching in Comal ISD, teaching band and choir at Bulverde and then becoming choir director at Smithson Valley High School. In 1987, he returned to his alma mater, New Braunfels High School, as choir director. He retired in 1993.

"Many of his students, infected by his love of complex and simple music, have benefited both professionally and personally in their love of music," Sanderson said.

Kretzmeier was nominated by Sanderson and by Helgard Suhr-Hollis.

In 1985, one month before the German singing group, Gemischer Chor

Harmonie, was to perform in Sangerfest, the director, Gilbert Becker, died. Kretzmeier was asked to fill in as emergency director. He stayed on as director of the singing club until 2010 and continues to sing with the group.

"The members of the Gemischer Chor Harmonie enjoy his edgy wit and his phenomenal ear for the wrong pitch that has left choir members red-faced when caught in the act of making mistakes," Sanderson said. "Bill always assures those he has directed, it was better to make errors in rehearsal rather than on the stage in front of an audience."

Kretzmeier also served as choir director for New Braunfels Presbyterian Church, First Protestant Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church, as well as for the local barbershop chorus. He is the past recipient of a New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung Unsung Hero Award.

Like Young, Kretzmeier does not understand what all the fuss is about; he merely followed his passion.

"I got paid to do what I would have paid to do," he said of his teaching career. "It was fun ... There is an old German philosopher who said, 'The human voice can only make two joyous sounds. The first one is laughter, and the second one is singing. Everything else is prattle.'"

Tickets are on sale through Wednesday for the Greater New Braunfels Arts Council event, which also will showcase local talent. Tickets are \$35 each and can be bought at The Crossing, 322 W. San Antonio St., Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, or any council member. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For information, call (830) 629-2890.

A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., giving attendees the opportunity to view visual art displays. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

CHICKENS

Continued from Page 1

I don't think you're going to get a return on your investment," Reaves said.

He said the city could incur additional expense in checking for compliance with the ordinance and in dealing with stray chickens and predators.

The city would charge residents \$35 to reclaim strayed birds captured by animal control officers. Nolte said it'd be cheaper for chicken owners to simply buy new birds.

Joe Lara, the city's environmental health manager, said unclaimed birds would go to the Humane Society, which could adopt them out — or take other measures to deal with them.

Councilman Bryan Miranda wanted to know how the limit of four hens was derived.

Lara said limiting hens to four would discourage the development of home-

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1

The surveys will be held at two locations on Jan. 26. The first will be 9-11 a.m. at Gruene United Methodist Church, 2629 E. Common St., New Braunfels, during its "Church by the River" service. The second will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Startzville Elementary School, 42111 Farm-to-Market 3159, Canyon Lake.

Stallings said organizations who deal with the homeless population will be encouraged to attend one of the sessions. Those who attend will be asked various questions, including where they are staying, what is keeping them homeless, and how many times have they been homeless.

Attendees will receive additional care and services such as flu shots provided by Comal County Public Health Office, haircuts, food, and clothing.

Call Stallings at (830) 629-6571 for information.

based commercial egg businesses in subdivisions. He said four "happy" hens could lay about 28 eggs per week. "That's more than enough for a family of four," Lara said.

The ordinance would require chickens to be cooped at least 10 feet away from a property line and 30 feet away from a residence.

Current city law allows chickens only on tracts of one acre or more.

Registration — at no cost — of locations harboring chickens is also proposed

under the ordinance. Registration of chicken-keeping sites would give animal control officers the ability to field inspect the locations for confirmation of proper setbacks and nuisance-related compliance requirements for the proper care and keeping of the yardbirds.

Several area municipalities — including San Antonio, Austin, San Marcos and Seguin — already have provisions allowing for the residential raising of chickens on smaller lots in their communities.

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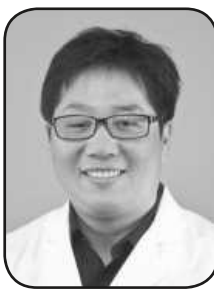
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