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► NB ECONOMY

4B Board votes for runway project

Cost expected to approach \$7 million

By Dalondo Moultrie
The Herald-Zeitung

The New Braunfels Industrial Development Corporation (aka 4B board) voted unanimously Thursday night at its regular meeting —



Llerena

which included two newly-appointed board directors — to provide an additional \$100,000 in funding to the runway extension project at the New Braunfels Regional Airport.

Directors Julie Martinez and Wes Stamps were absent. New directors Stuart Hansmann and Ashley Scott Davison voted for the expenditure along with Bob Gray, Jennifer Malatek and Michael Hindman.

“It sounds like this is just due to rising construction costs from when we awarded this two years ago,” Gray said before the vote.

Airport Director Lenny Llerena and Jeff Jewel, New Braunfels development director, informed the board that Gray’s assumption was on the money.

The project’s bid came in about 90 days ago, Llerena said. Jewel said the project is to extend a runway at the airport from about 5,200 feet to about 6,500 feet and make it more accessible to all types of aircraft.

He said the cost was initially estimated to be about \$4.8 million a couple years ago. But it turns out it will cost closer to \$6.9 million.

New Braunfels is paying only 10 percent of the total and the Texas Department of Transportation is picking up the rest.

“With all of our infrastructure needs, the partnership with TxDOT has been good,” Malatek said.

4B also voted on its new leadership Thursday night. The five members in attendance voted unanimously to install Gray as board president, Malatek as vice president and keep Martinez as secretary and Hindman as treasurer.

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HCP wants gauge checked

Unit acting ‘erratically;’ Comal springflows may be higher than reports

By Greg Bowen
The Herald-Zeitung

Nathan Pence, program manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority’s Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), is happy to see the federal government shutdown end.

The HCP is a months-old regional effort intended to resolve the long-standing conflict between the federal mandate to protect endangered species associated with the Edwards Aquifer and the area’s dependence on the aquifer as

a primary water resource.

It operates under a federal permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

“This morning, for the first time in about two and a half weeks, I’ve had communications with (USFWS),” Pence

told the HCP’s Implementing Committee, which met Thursday in New Braunfels. “We’re reopening lines of communication.”

One issue that has been on

See GAUGE, Page 13



Pence

GERMAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY



Photos by KATEE BOYD | Herald-Zeitung

The Gemischter Chor Harmonie kicked off the program at the German-American Society’s 35th Anniversary Celebration Thursday night at the Historic Seekatz Opera House in New Braunfels.

Alles gute!

German-American Society celebrates 35th anniversary

By Betty Taylor
The Herald-Zeitung

Christine Armstrong, who moved to the Lone Star state from the Eifel region of Germany, joined the German-American Society in 1999 so she could speak German with others. Last night, Christine and her husband, Robert Armstrong, a Texas boy, were two of the more than 180 guests who celebrated the society’s 35th year.

Guests gathered at the Historic Seekatz Opera House for dinner and music to share stories of the many ways the German-American

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Otto Hill attended the German-American Society’s 35th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday night.

► MISSING PERSON

Police seek help finding woman

By Dalondo Moultrie
The Herald-Zeitung

New Braunfels Police Department officials are asking for the public’s help in locating a 53-year-old woman believed to be missing since September, when she walked away from her New Braunfels home.

Ann Marie Newark hasn’t been seen since the morning of Sept. 12, when she had an argument at her home in the 2700 block of Maple Tree Drive



Newark

Seen her?

Police ask that anyone who sees Ann Marie Newark to contact the NBPD at (830) 221-4100 or the nearest law enforcement agency.

“Newark, who suffers from depression, left her personal belongings at her residence and is believed to be armed with a handgun,” he said.

He is unsure of the exact relationship between Newark and the relative with whom she argued, McDonald said. He also is unsure whether that person lives in New Braunfels or was visiting.

Newark and the family member argued over “family matters,” he said.

McDonald said Newark is from the New York City area and has no other family, friends or relatives in the New Braunfels area.

She is described as being 5 feet, 2 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds and having

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New Braunfels Fire Department special operations rescue team members are Ethan Lindner, Lee Barker, Kai Walderman, Nathan Dekens, Larry Evans, James Pierce, Tyler Hindman, Bo Montague, Garrick Herbert, Justin Kinnamon, Mitchell Halbaldier and John Sippel Jr.

Submitted photo



NBFD team honored at rescue competition

From staff reports

New Braunfels Fire Department’s special operations rescue team brought home first- and third-place awards in the 35th annual Texas Rescue Competition last weekend at Garner State Park.

The team garnered first-place honors in one scenario and the third-place award in another in only its second year of competing. The event is open to teams worldwide.

“The event consists of teams competing for the best performance in a rescue scenario,” Fire Chief John Robinson said. “Typically the judges locate a challenging location to place a patient — such as on the face of a cliff over 300 feet in the air, or in caves so tight it is hard to have room to take a full breathe — and then judge the team’s rescue on a number

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NBPC KID’S DAY OUT

Showers and t-storms
High: 73 Low: 54



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Alumni group holds forum

By Dalondo Moultrie
The Herald-Zeitung

Leadership New Braunfels Alumni Association held an issues forum Thursday at Landa Haus in Landa Park and discussed topics related to the upcoming general election.

About 35 alumni showed up for the lunchtime meeting and forum.

They listened to three speakers extol the virtues of the Comal Independent School District proposition and several proposed constitutional amendments on the Nov. 5 ballot.

"The purpose of this issues forum is to learn more about the constitutional amendments and the Comal ISD bond," said Greg Lutz, vice chair of the LNB Alumni Association.

He introduced the day's speakers.

First up presenting information on the Comal ISD proposal to issue \$451 million in building bonds to acquire, design, renovate, construct and equip school facilities was Laura Linhart-Kistner for Friends of Comal Public Schools.

Linhart-Kistner said she is a Comal mom and former school board member. She acknowledged the hefty price tag of the proposal but said it is needed in this community because Comal ISD is projected to grow to 30,000 students within the next 10 years.

"The bond is a huge number," Linhart-Kistner said. "It's bigger than this community has ever seen, but it is not an irresponsible number."

Now at 19,500 students, the district saw an increase of 9,000 students over the previous 10 years and about 1,000 from the beginning of school last year to the beginning of school this year, Linhart-Kistner said. She said most of the growth is coming to the North Bexar County area and the plan is to build schools in the areas where the growth occurs.

One goal of the building plan is to provide more neighborhood schools, which also will shorten commute times for bussed students, she said.

"This is going to save time for families," Linhart-Kistner said. "That means more time at home for homework."

Next, Ted Cook, vice chair of the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce government affairs committee, spoke about eight of the nine amendment proposition.

About Proposition 5, he said: "This only affects you if you're 62 years old or older. It will allow people 62 years old or older that have built up a lot of equity in their home ... to sell the home. It will allow you to purchase a new home using the equity from your old home."

Proposition 9 is "The constitutional amendment relating to expanding the types of sanctions that may be assessed against a judge or justice following a formal proceeding instituted

by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Cook spoke briefly about it.

"That's just expanding the formal proceedings on judges," he said. "I'm sure we want full disclosure on those judges."

He left the sixth proposed amendment for the final speaker to address.

State Rep. Doug Miller of the District 73 took the podium.

"I'm going to talk to you about what I believe is the most important of the constitutional amendments," he said.

Number 6 reads: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas to assist in the financing of priority projects in the state water plan to ensure the availability of adequate water resources."

Miller said the amendment would move \$2 billion out of the state's rainy day fund and use it for an interim loan program. Money from the fund would be loaned out for water-related projects across the state, Miller said.

Resolving Texas' water issues, he said, is important to the state's economy and overall well being.

"You can live and have an uneducated society, even though you wouldn't want to," Miller said. "But the fact is you cannot live life without water."

Early voting begins Monday and ends next Friday. Election Day is Nov. 5.

Nobody hurt in New Braunfels fire

By Dalondo Moultrie
The Herald-Zeitung

No one was hurt Wednesday evening when a fire burned a single-family home in New Braunfels, a New Braunfels Fire Department spokesman said.

Mostly smoke and heat caused heavy damage to the two-story house in the 2200 block of North Ranch Estates, NBFD Battalion Chief Darren Brinkkoeter said. He said firefighters extinguished minimal flames without incident.

"There was nobody transported (to the hospital), nobody hurt," Brinkkoeter said. "That's neither civilians nor fire personnel."

He said 15 fire department members driving eight

vehicles received the call about 6:14 p.m. and arrived at the house about three minutes later. They saw nothing coming from the house and went inside the smoke-filled structure to check for any occupants, Brinkkoeter said.

Finding none, they began to attack the fire.

"Very low visibility hampered their attack," he said. "It took them a long time to get all the heat and smoke out of the building. It was extensive heat and smoke on both levels, mainly on the first floor, but it did go up to the upper level as well."

Lt. Matt Bushnell with the city fire marshal's office, said residents of the house called in the fire after returning

home from a trip to the grocery store. They opened the garage door and smoke poured out, he said.

Firefighters and investigators discovered the fire was in the living room area of the home, Bushnell said.

"There was very little actual fire damage," he said. "I would estimate the damage to be close to \$50,000 due to the damaged contents inside. Most all of their belongings and stuff the smoke just ate up."

Bushnell said investigators know where in the house the fire started but are still working to determine the cause, which remains under investigation.

Brinkkoeter said fire crews left the house at about 9 p.m.

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 1

Society has continued to preserve the German heritage of New Braunfels.

As Gemischer Chor Harmonie, the German singing group, finished singing "So ein Tag," Ron Evans, president of the German-American Society, told guests that speaking German was one of the many ways the society helped preserve the German heritage of the area.

"We offer three German language classes a year. We would like to make it four. We also host a summer German language camp for children," he said.

Mayor Gale Pospisil thanked the crowd for inviting a "little old Irish girl" to the society's event.

She added, "Even though we are growing, we want

to keep what's special about New Braunfels. Preserving German heritage is a big part of that."

Comal County Judge Sherman Krause noted the population growth of the area as well.

"We continue to change ... The population of Comal County was 20,000 when I was born. It was 35,000 or 36,000 when this organization was formed. Now, it is 115,000," Krause said, thanking the society for its dedication to preserving the German heritage.

The German-American Society was founded by Verne Schmidt; Frank and Helgard Suhr (Hollis); and H.T. and Beulah Engelhardt in October of 1978 to preserve German culture and traditions in Texas.

Visitors were able to peruse old scrapbooks and photos at a memorabilia table documenting the many activities of the soci-

ety. During the past several years, the society has published German recipe books and hosted German concerts. In 1995, the society dedicated the 50-foot Maibaum pole, which sits near the entrance of the Wurstfest grounds.

The 230 or so members of the German-American Society participate in Wassaifest, Wurstfest and parades.

They also offer financial support to several organizations in town including the Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Wurstfest Association, Mid-Texas Symphony, Heritage Village, Conservation Society, Wein and Saengerfest, Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre and the Elks.

"In 2012, we donated \$11,000 to organizations," Evans told the crowd.

For information, visit <http://newbraunfelsgermanamericansociety.com>.

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