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Signs of progress in Central Texas

Progress is an annual publication of KDH Media Group that focuses on the developments of the past year in the Central Texas communities the Killeen Daily Herald serves. The section also takes an in-depth look at the changes in store in the year ahead.

This year's 116-page edition includes news, information, photographs and advertisements that highlight the developments in Killeen and its neighboring communities of Harker Heights, Fort Hood, Copperas Cove, Belton, Nolanville, Florence, Salado, Kempner, Gatesville and Lampasas.

In addition to chronicling developments in the business sector, Progress also features news accounts and analysis from the areas of education, military, real estate, recreation, religion and the medical community.

The content for the 2018 Progress edition was created by staff of the Killeen Daily Herald's editorial and advertising departments, as well as several news correspondents.

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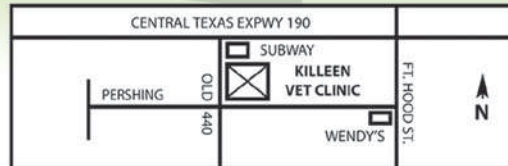
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Killeen population figures continue to rise

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The population of Killeen continues to grow with no signs of stopping, according to estimates based on current trends from the city's Planning and Development Services Department.

Hilary Shine, Killeen's director of communications, said Killeen's population is estimated at 145,625 in 2018 — a nearly 3,000-resident jump from 2017.

The city's population was 138,154 in 2014, according to census estimates at the time. The next few years are also expected to show growth, with 147,630 residents projected in 2019, 149,998 residents projected in 2020 and 152,361 in 2021.

City Planner Tony McIlwain said the city keeps track of population projections to help plan for the future.

"Population estimates and



FILE PHOTO | HERALD

Killeen's population, estimated at 145,625, has outgrown the sign on FM 2410.

projections serve an important role in helping cities project timing of infrastructure projects and extension of services," McIlwain said.

Part of that long-term outlook is master planning — a process in

which the city prepares for future outlay of city infrastructure, parks, airport management and transportation.

"Long-term planning is critical to a growing city like Killeen," Shine said. "Master plans evaluate

current services and needs and anticipate how each will grow over time based on any number of factors including population. Current master planning is underway with a comprehensive plan, the Airport Master Plan and the Water/Sewer Master Plan."

Shine said the boom in population comes with more demand for city services — but also increased potential for economic growth.

"More people creates more demand for City services, and current planning efforts are working to anticipate the timing of growth in order to accommodate it," she said. "Growth in population should correlate to economic growth in property and sales taxes, which would produce revenue to extend services. Population growth also increases our city's marketability to business investors bringing both commercial development and jobs."

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Harper-Talasek Funeral Homes serve Killeen, Belton and Temple.

Bell County's population, budget growing

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

In Bell County, the Killeen-Temple metro area was ranked among the top 10 cities in the state for annual job growth in 2017. The annual job growth rate from last year to this year was 1.9 percent, and the 3,969 jobs posted in the city are a 3.9 percent increase from the past year.

Out of the 178,900 people that make up the area's work force, 7,400 of them were unemployed as of July 2017.

The Bell County unemployment rate is slightly lower than the state's — which is 3.9 percent — and the country's — which is 4.1 percent.

According to County Judge Jon Burrows, Bell County was able to add \$1,626,003 to the fund balance this past year, increasing it to \$42,177,210. That's a little over 5.5 months of operating funds in

the reserve. That was good news, because at the beginning of the fiscal year, the projected budget showed the county using \$4,500,000 of the fund balance.

"I believe the future continues to look promising for Bell County, due to our diverse economy and continual growth," Burrows said.

This is Burrows' last year as a county judge. His likely successor will be David Blackburn, who ran for the seat unopposed, and does not have a Democratic challenger. Burrows will have his last day on Dec. 31. He has held the role of Bell County Judge for five terms.

The county budget included \$34,169,865 of expenditures for public safety, as well as \$2,675,961 for health and conservation.

More than \$86,000,000 worth of total revenue was generated last year, including \$881,691 from a hotel/motel tax and more than \$46,630,000 that came from total property taxes.

Burrows said that a reason for the budget increases can be attributed to population.

In 1960, the county's population was just 94,097. Now, it hovers above 360,000, according to a study from the Texas Department of State Health Services. That's more than 50,000 over the 2010 population. With more people comes more costs, Burrows said. The number of autopsies that have to be ordered increases, as well as appointed attorneys and health care.

The projected expenditures for 2018 is \$96,377,497. In 2017, it was \$95,147,600 in 2017, and even that was up significantly from the \$87.5 million budget the county had in 2016, and the \$82.9 million budget the year before.



HERALD | FILE

The Bell County Courthouse, where the county commissioners meet each week, is seen in this file photo.

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Downtown revitalization continued apace in 2017

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

New businesses and nonprofit partnerships helped continue the revitalization of downtown Killeen in 2017.

According to revitalization planner Jerry Millard, several downtown businesses and organizations opened or relocated in 2017, including:

Hacienda Texas Realty opened at 211 E. Avenue D, in a dilapidated building that had been vacant since 2002.

The Village United & Village Co-Op, a nonprofit organization who works in collaboration with community leaders to foster positive influence on the community and its youth, opened at 324 E. Avenue D.

Golden Earz recording studio opened at 330 E. Avenue D, Suite A.

Peking Restaurant opened at 307 N. Eighth St.

Mosaic Deliverance and Praise offers church services at 201 E. Avenue C.

The Upper Room Deliverance opened a new church location at 409 and 413 N. Eighth St.

McCall's World Famous Bar-B-Q opened its doors at 224 E. Avenue C after they renovated the building and are hoping to expand operations at the current location in 2018.

Isbell Property Management relocated to a larger building at 312 E. Avenue B.

Rincon de Panama restaurant moved to a larger location at 205 N.

Gray. "Currently there are no scheduled new business openings in the downtown in 2018," Millard said. "We will continue to work with perspective businesses as we progress through the year."

Millard said the revitalization program is still proceeding apace.

"The downtown revitalization program is still in full swing," Millard said. "There are programs that remain in use that directly support positive growth and revitalization in the downtown and in North Killeen."

Millard said continued growth of both the North Killeen and downtown areas will have a direct impact on each other. The intended purpose of the revitalization efforts is to encourage and promote historic preservation, economic growth, and increased vitality of the downtown.

According to the city, businesses have been granted \$4,587.54 in Historic District Sign Grant



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Downtown Killeen is photographed March 20. Revitalization of the city's center continues.

funding supporting six businesses since the program's inception. In addition, the city has provided \$123,453.06 in Historic District Facade Grant funding to support 16 businesses.

The sign grant offers reimbursement to business owners for 50 percent of the cost of a sign up to \$800.

"In total, this program has encouraged \$2.2 million dollars of investment in North Killeen," Millard said.

The city currently has only two events planned for the downtown area in 2018 — the Veterans Day and Christmas parades.

For more information, go to downtownkilleenevents.com.

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City of Killeen continues infrastructure projects

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The city of Killeen completed a number of infrastructure projects in 2017 to keep up with population growth and has more in the works for 2018.

The city substantially completed the Trimmier Road Widening Project in late 2017. The project created a continuous center turn lane on Trimmier Road from Jasper Drive to Elms Road, improved entrances and exits to commercial areas, and upgraded signalization and sidewalks.

The project also added a traffic signal at the intersection of Trimmier and Weiss roads, extended Lowes Boulevard west to Florence Road, created two connecting roads between Lowes Boulevard and the Interstate 14 access road.

Finally, the project straightened the curved road at W.S. Young Drive and Little Nolan Road, and added a four-way traffic signal at Lowes and Walmart boulevards.

In February, the Killeen City Council awarded a \$7.8 million bid to Belton-based James Construction Group for the extension of Rosewood Drive and the construction of segments three and four of the Heritage Oaks Hike and Bike Trail.

The project will include the construction of 0.6 miles of road to connect Rosewood Drive to Chaparral Road. The extension will include the construction of a

284-foot-long bridge over Trimmier Creek, south of the White Rock Estates subdivision.

The two segments of the trail will end in Purser Park in Harker Heights.

Construction on the project is estimated to begin in April with an expected completion date in summer 2020.

In February, the council approved a \$673,673 contract with Bruce Flanigan Construction for the 10th phase of the city's Septic Tank Elimination Program.

The newest phase will bring city sewer access to 103 homes in the Tucker Subdivision at 6000 S. Clear Creek Road. The city estimated the cost to homeowners who opt into the program will be \$1,800.

The STEP program began in 2002 with the intent of increasing the quality of ground water in areas containing septic systems. About 1,200 homes within city limits are estimated to still be on septic.

In August 2017, the city completed phase one of its Water Line Rehabilitation Project, which replaced 18,500 feet of waterlines in the area bounded by Rancier Avenue, Veterans Memorial Boulevard, 10th Street and W.S. Young Drive.

Phase two of the water line project, which will replace two miles of water mains along Veterans Memorial Boulevard between 38th Street and College Street, is anticipated to be completed in summer 2018.

The city completed phase three



FILE PHOTO | HERALD

Construction is seen on East Rancier Avenue in Killeen. This closure is for utility work and involves open cut excavation to replace water mains.

of the sewer line rehabilitation project in December 2018, which rehabilitated 29,200 feet of sewer lines.

The transportation Capital Improvement Project Master plan can be found on the city's transportation department website at www.killeentexas.gov/transportation.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1's planned water treatment plant on the shores of Stillhouse Hollow Lake was bid for construction July 5 with Houston-based CSA Engineers Inc., for \$41 million.

The water district is the city of Killeen's sole wholesale drinking water provider with a contractual

agreement dating back to 1952, when the district was created. The district pumps more than 13 trillion gallons to the city annually and owns about \$200 million in reported enterprise assets.

Last projected to be completed in 2019, the plant is now expected to be substantially completed in May 2020 after a lengthy wait for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers environmental approval, according to water district general manager Ricky Garrett.

The Stillhouse treatment plant will expand the district's treatment capacity to more than 100 million gallons per day, adding 10 million gallons of treated water per day to Killeen's existing 32 million gallons per day out of Belton Lake.

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Signs officially raised for Interstate 14 through Killeen

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

By late 2017, signs for the recently designated Interstate 14 were installed along the former U.S. Highway 190 after the road's official designation in January 2017.

Congressmen John Carter, R-Round Rock, and Roger Williams, R-Austin, unveiled the first I-14 signs for U.S. 190 between Copperas Cove and Belton at an unveiling ceremony at Central Texas College on April 22.

"I-14 route markers have been going up at various locations, along U.S. 190, between Copperas Cove and Belton since Sunday," Roberts said April 25. "This work will continue over the next few months and should be completed on both I-14 as well as I-35 by the end of this summer."

The 25-mile stretch of highway from Copperas Cove to Interstate

35 in Belton was designated I-14 in January 2017 by TxDOT. There is a bigger plan to stretch the interstate from El Paso to Savannah, Ga., linking several military bases.

Killeen Mayor Jose Segarra said the interstate will help attract other businesses that normally would not relocate to an area not on an interstate.

"I don't anticipate any immediate changes for businesses that are already on the highway such as mine, but in the long run, it may increase their visibility to other new customers that those new businesses may bring," Segarra said in January.

Representatives from cities within the Greater Fort Hood area have been working with the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition since 2000 for the I-14 system. The goal is to connect military installations from Texas to Georgia and provide foster access



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Cars pass by an Interstate 14 sign in Harker Heights.

to highways and ports.

Interstate 14 is also known as the 14th Amendment Highway, receiving its designation for the amendment passed in 1868, which granted citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States," which included former

slaves recently freed.

Individual states will have a hand in the project, to include construction and approval of the suggested route, according to the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition's website. There is no date set for completion of the project.

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Killeen Civic and Conference Center a hub for local tourism

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Killeen Civic and Conference Center and Convention and Visitors Bureau continued to serve as a hub for tourism events in 2017 — and another big year is in the works.

The center hosted 680 events in 2017 with more than 134,000 guests coming through its doors, according to Kathie Mulheron, the center's director.

"We anticipate an increase in guests and events as we continue to book events on a daily basis and offer affordable room rental fees to accommodate various types of events and client budgets," Mulheron said.

The center has 457 events already scheduled for 2018, with 11 conferences scheduled as well as several military balls, weddings and private events.

Mulheron said the center is continuing to book events for the

year.

The center also hosts a number of events for local partners such as the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce Flavors of Central Texas, H-E-B Regional meeting, Annual Killeen PRCA Rodeo, Killeen Rotary Crawfish Boil, Killeen Junior Livestock Show, the Central Texas Community Expo and the Killeen Daily Herald Bridal Show.

"We are currently partnering with our internal city departments to provide events for the community," Mulheron said.

Mulheron said the center is a boon for the local economy.

"The Killeen Civic & Conference Center and Convention & Visitors Bureau contributes to the local economy by hosting out-of-town visitors that attend conventions, tradeshows, weddings and meetings," Mulheron said.

"Visitors spend money for lodging, transportation, restaurants and



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Eventgoers sample pastries from Sweet Bite Bakery during the Flavors of Central Texas event at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center in Killeen.

retail shopping thus generating sales and lodging tax."

The center and visitors bureau also saw some significant improvements throughout 2017.

"The City Council approved the purchase of replacement air walls to improve sound proofing between event spaces," Mulheron said. "They also approved interior digital signage to improve wayfinding."



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New establishments join Killeen restaurant scene

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

One thing Killeen is never lacking is places to eat, and 2017 saw several new restaurants open or begin construction around the city. Some of the new eateries are local start-ups, while others are new locations for big franchises.

The new restaurants setting up shop in the Killeen area are:

- Crooked Fork, a sandwich shop located at 921 West Veterans Memorial Boulevard
- French Quarters, a Louisiana-style restaurant located at 4300 S. Fort Hood St.
- House of Coney Island, which offers traditional American fare at 441 N. 38th St.
- Kogibowl Sushi Bar, a Korean restaurant located at 2408 Clear Creek Road
- Los Cabos Seafood Bar, a seafood eatery located at 1215 S. Fort Hood St.
- Mama Fu's, a restaurant specializing in Asian comfort food located at 2520 Trimmier Road
- Marco's Pizza, specialty pizzas for carryout and delivery, located at 5304 W. Elms Road
- MasFajitas, Mexican cuisine located at 1908 E. Central Texas Expressway
- Meno's Mexican Grill, offering Mexican food located at 1100 East Stan Schlueter Loop, reopened after remodeling
- MOD Pizza, individual artisan-style pizzas, located at 3007 E.

- Central Texas Expressway
- Potbelly, a retro-style sandwich shop located at 3126 E. Central Texas Expressway
- Smoothie King, health-conscious smoothie drinks, located at 2200 E. Central Texas Expressway
- Steak Express, traditional American food, located at 5304 W. Elms Road
- The Catch, offering seafood in a fast-casual experience, located at 1200 Lowes Boulevard
- True Texas BBQ, barbecue and sides, located at 1101 W. Stan Schlueter Loop
- GattiTown Pizza, offering pizza and an entertainment center for children located at 2497 E. Central Texas Expressway
- Jimmy's Egg, assorted breakfast foods, located at 1103 W. Stan Schlueter Loop
- Zaxby's, a fast-food chicken restaurant, located at 2150 S. Clear Creek Road



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Customers order at the Zaxby's counter on Aug. 13, 2017.



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Head Chef Ann Riggs prepares food at The Catch restaurant in Killeen on Jan. 11.

The city also developed a new place for hungry residents to gather. Food trucks currently gather at the new food truck park on the intersection of Fort Hood Street and Elms Road throughout the week, serving lunch to hungry residents.

There is also a new restaurant that has been permitted by the city, and currently in the middle of construction.

Killeen will be getting another Burger King, located at 3809 E. Stan Schlueter Loop.

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Workforce Solutions connects jobseekers and employers

BY ROSEL THAYER

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

More than 25,000 job seekers found work last year through Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, an organization dedicated to connecting employers to skilled employees and helping job hunters find quality, fulfilling employment.

The organization is governed by a board of 27 members, and represents a spectrum of business, education and community interests, providing “quality education, training, and labor market services,” according to its 2017-2020 strategic plan.

“It is a pleasure to work for such a community-focused organization where we have a positive, lasting impact on people’s businesses and lives,” said Susan Kamas, executive director of the Workforce Development Board. “Workforce Solutions of Central Texas is an exemplary organization with high-level professionals who work every day to make a difference by helping businesses find the best employees and helping job seekers gain the skills necessary to fill local jobs.”

As in years past, it continues to give customers a competitive advantage. Of the more than 25,000 job seekers who were helped in 2017, Workforce Solution’s data show that included 9,080 dislocated workers and 6,539 veterans. On average, more than half the people claiming unemployment and searching for work found a job within 10 weeks — exceeding the group’s target placement.

Of the job seekers sponsored in training, about 91 percent entered employment with 89 percent filling local, in-demand, high-skill, high-wage jobs for which they were trained.

A variety of services from career planning and job search to childcare subsidies and vocational training assistance are offered. It serves a large chunk of Central Texas: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties.

Resources for military and

military-connected job seekers and businesses are abundant.

The Central Texas regional economy had roughly 186,881 people employed at the end of 2017 with the number of available local jobs growing 1.9 percent.

The regional economy is undeniably dominated by Fort Hood, the largest active-duty, armored post in the U.S. Armed Forces. As the largest single economic driver of the Central Texas economy, Fort Hood supports 60,145 people on the post, 35,264 off-post family members, and 293,899 retirees, survivors and retired family members. The Texas Comptrollers Office credits Fort Hood with \$35.4 billion in statewide economic activity.

The “Hiring Red, White and You” Veterans Job Fair in November promoted helping veterans, drawing 64 employers and 297 job seekers, of which 194 were veterans. Eighteen people were offered a job or the potential for one on the spot.

Workforce Solutions also celebrated the recruitment of new leadership this year. Retired Maj. Gen. Ken Cox was named the chief operations officer and assumed responsibility for managing all Workforce Centers in Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties Sept. 1. His office is in Killeen.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas supports training in high-skill, high-wage jobs that are predicted to have a consistent or growing need for more employees.

It is also an award-winning organization, and for the 13th consecutive year, was ranked in 2017 among the “Top 100 Best Companies to Work for in Texas,” as judged by the Texas Association of Business, Texas Monthly Magazine, and the Texas Society for Human Resource Management.

In 2017, it received a Texas Workforce Commission award for having the highest percentage of training-related job placements in its budget cohort.

Workforce Solutions of Central



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Workforce Solutions is located at 300 Cheyenne Drive in Killeen.

Texas, 300 Cheyenne Drive in Killeen, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Go to www.invisibleworkers.org or call 254-200-2234 for more information.

The website includes a Killeen

center activity calendar with professional development events of all types. Learn how to participate in classes such as CPR and first aid, resume writing, math and English and a second language.

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Killeen airports continue upgrades in 2018

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Despite the loss of a major carrier at the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport in January, city officials are looking ahead for new opportunities for the regional facility.

On Jan. 15, Atlanta-based Delta Airlines pulled out of the airport, stripping four incoming and outgoing flights out of the daily rotation.

“Delta departing was sudden and unexpected,” Killeen Director of Aviation Matthew Van Valkenburgh said. “However, our current airline partners, American and United, are willing and able to meet the needs of our community and region for air travel. We will continue to work with our partners to sustain and grow their markets while searching for additional air service opportunities.”

In 2017, the airport reported 129,798 enplanements and 131,745 deplanements.

The city is currently undergoing a number of projects, including drafting an Airport Master Plan, installing a shared-use and flight information display system upgrade, designing a passenger boarding bridge replacement, upgrading the car wash facility and upgrading the security surveillance system at the Robert Gray Army Airfield.

The master plan, the city’s



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

The last Delta flight leaves the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport on Jan. 15.

spending and expansion schedule for its two airports drafted by Arkansas-based engineering firm Garver, is expected to be completed around August.

The plan will offer an inventory of airport facilities, a snapshot of the airport’s customer base and possible plans for airport improvements.

“The Airport Master Plan is an evaluation of current and forecasted airport activity, facility requirements, and a review of various alternatives for the airport,” Van Valkenburgh said. “The objective of the Airport Master Plan is to provide guidance for future development which will satisfy aviation demand in an environmentally and fiscally

responsible manner as well as provide solutions that satisfy the expected future needs of the Airport in a financially feasible manner, while accounting for the surrounding community, local environment, and socioeconomic factors.”

Van Valkenburgh said the plan will eventually act as a guidepost for the city’s airport service development.

“Through coordinated review by the City, the FAA, airport users, and the public, a recommended development concept will evolve which serves as a guide to realistic, affordable, and achievable airport development,” he said. “The plan then acts as a guide to aid decision-makers

when considering airport improvements.”

In 2017, the city invested around \$275,000 for the drafting of the master plan and a local match for the \$3.6 million Army Radar Approach Control Facility.

Visit killeenfhood.airportstudy.com/ for the latest information, draft documents and public meeting information.

SKYLARK FIELD

The city’s second airport, Skylark Field, continued to undergo improvements in 2017, with the installation of runway end lights.

“The (lights) provide rapid and positive identification of the approach end of Skylark runway one,” Van Valkenburgh said. “The system consists of a pair of synchronized flashing lights located laterally on each side of the runway threshold.”

In 2018, Van Valkenburgh said the city would be installing additional T-hangars for lease. The hangars are currently being designed.

According to Van Valkenburgh, Skylark currently has commercial leases with Central Texas College, Freedom Air Helicopters, and Diamond Star Aviation. Additionally, the Airport is at capacity with all 40 T-hangar units leased to individuals.



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GKCC adds programs, boosts local economic development

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

In 2017, the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce added several new programs for members to enjoy. In an effort to learn more about their members, chamber staff and volunteers began making random monthly visits during their “Pop In Days.”

Another new program, Flash Networking, is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 2 to 3 p.m.

This free networking event is held at a different chamber member restaurant. No registration is required and attendees must pay for their own food.

The most notable new event added in 2017 was Leadercast, the world’s largest one-day leadership conference broadcast live from Atlanta and simulcast to hundreds of locations around the world. The event featured a robust program of nationally renowned speakers, as well as interactive activities that allowed attendees to meet one another and learn valuable teamwork skills.

In addition to an impressive lineup of national speakers, the 2018 event will feature a panel of local speakers, including Meredith Viguers, Certified John Maxwell Speaker, Trainer and Coach, and owner of Let Us Do the Cooking and MPowered You.

Leadercast 2018 will be Friday, May 4 at Grace Christian Center. Advance registration is required



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Community leaders mingle before the start of a Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce’s Military Relations Council luncheon, Sept. 25, 2017, at Texas A&M University-Central Texas’ Warrior Hall in Killeen.

and space is limited.

The Chamber continues to provide the programs and services members have come to expect, such as monthly mixers, Chamber Networking and News (CNN), Flavors of Central Texas, the annual membership banquet and informative workshops

The 2018 Flavors of Central Texas will be Aug. 14 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The following award winners were recognized at the 84th Annual Membership Banquet in 2017:

Roy J. Smith Award-Eula “Sis” Beck; Large Business of the Year-Carlson Law Firm; Small Business of the Year-Linnemann Realty; Public Education Council Individual of the Year-Lovie Dunn with Central Texas College; Public Education Council Business of the Year-Central Texas College; Greater Killeen Young Professional Of The Year-Ashely Whitworth with First Texas Bank; Welcome Council Member of the Year- Kelly Brown with First National Bank Texas; Non-Profit of the Year: Grace Christian Center.

The 2018 Annual Membership Banquet will be Sept. 20 at the Killeen Civic and Conference

Center.

The Greater Killeen Young Professionals held their 8th annual Rock the Foundation Casino Night in 2017 and raised \$11,682 for scholarships at Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas. The group also held monthly socials and luncheons to provide networking and professional development opportunities to area young professionals. The 2018 Rock the Foundation will be April 13 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The Military Relations Council continued to help tell the Fort Hood and Army story to influencers and decision makers in the region and beyond through two group trips to the U. S. Army National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

In addition, the council organized a Senior Command Team Welcome Dinner, a social for new Battalion and Brigade Commanders, four luncheons featuring speakers giving updates about Fort Hood, and other events.

After years of hard work with the City of Killeen, Killeen Economic Development Corporation and the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway

Coalition, the Public Policy Council celebrated the creation of the Interstate 14 Corridor in April 2017 at a ceremony at Central Texas College.

The first segment of I-14 to be designated in Texas, it runs jointly with U.S. 190 from the intersection of U.S. 190 and Business U.S. 190 East in Copperas Cove to Interstate 35 in Belton.

Once completed, the roadway will run from Fort Bliss, Texas, in the West to Fort Stewart, Georgia, in the East.

This designation will have a lasting economic impact on the City of Killeen and all cities along the route.

In addition, the Public Policy Council held a farewell reception for outgoing state Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, a State of the Region update, a luncheon with state Sen. Dawn Buckingham and a legislative update with state Reps. Scott Cosper, Hugh Shine and J.D. Sheffield.

The Chamber’s Public Policy Council continues to advocate on behalf of business interests through this and a variety of other activities.

PLEASE SEE **GKCC**, PAGE 17

GKCC

FROM PAGE 16

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Major employers continue to increase jobs, while new businesses also add to the growing pool of jobs.

2017 saw the following new business openings in Killeen:

- Crooked Fork
- Do My Shopping for Me, LLC
- Doll Face Virgin Hair Boutique, LLC
- Express ER
- Freedom Urgent Care
- Killeen
- French Quarters
- Glam & Pop Events by Kim
- H-E-B
- Holey Moley Tattoos & Piercings
- House of Coney Island
- Kogibowl Sushi Bar
- Los Cabos Seafood
- Mama Fu's
- Marco's Pizza
- Mas Fajitas
- Meno's Mexican Grill
- MOD Pizza
- Mommy & Me Salon & Spa by Defining Beautiful
- Pep Boys
- Potbelly
- Shoe Envy
- Sketchers Factory Outlet
- Smoothie King
- Steak Express
- The Catch
- The Hair Lounge
- Torrid
- True Texas BBQ
- U.S. Patriot Tactical
- Voices United Publication of Killeen
- Veteran's United Home Loans
- Wally's Party Factory

Foodies can also enjoy lunch at a newly formed food truck park on the intersection of Fort Hood Street and Elms Road throughout the week.

Last year it was announced that the old Kmart plaza will be home to HomePlus, Crunch Fitness, Dollar Tree, Lumber Liquidators and Vertical Altitude Trampoline Park

Other retailers expected to open new or additional locations in Killeen in 2018 include Aldi, Arby's, Burger King, Carmax, Dunkin Donuts, Gattitown Killeen, Little



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Patrons attend the bi-annual Hood Howdy event, sponsored by MWR and the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, at Fort Hood on Feb. 2.

Tokyo, Pet Supermarket, Red Lion Hotel, Simply Adarable, The Gun Range and Urban Air Trampoline Park

The Killeen Industrial Park also saw major growth in 2017. MGC Pure Chemicals America Inc. (MPCA), a manufacturing company that will service the semiconductor industry, held a ceremonial groundbreaking in August 2017 and Gray Construction began moving dirt in November 2017. With a \$30 million capital investment, MPCA becomes the second largest tax-paying business in Killeen.

The company will create 28 high-paying jobs and anticipates being operational by 2019.

Bell Glass and Mirror continues its local relocation and expansion project, which includes a capital investment of approximately \$1.5 million and \$10 million in annual sales. The company will employ 26 full-time workers and another 10-12 union employees in the Austin/San Antonio markets. Bell Glass has become one of the leading Commercial Glazing Companies in the state and Southwest, and continues to grow.

The grand opening for the Killeen facility is scheduled for the first week of April.

14 FORWARD

In 2017, the GKCC launched 14 Forward, an aggressive five-year

campaign designed to help grow the region's economy. This \$2 million private-sector driven campaign is funded by more than 40 area businesses.

- Money raised will be used to fund:
 - New business attraction in the defense, IT, transportation/logistics, and business services industries;
 - Planning for the development of a research park at Texas A&M University-Central Texas;
 - Staff support for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance to prepare for BRAC-related growth opportunities at Fort Hood;
 - Expansion of Interstate 14 through education and mentorship of communities along the corridor; and
 - Targeted strategies to increase bandwidth/internet speed throughout the region.

14 Forward staff hired in late 2017 has begun work on these initiatives.

For information on how your business can get involved, visit killeenchamber.com/14_forward or email jennifer@killeenchamber.com.

THE FUTURE

Looking forward, the prospect for new business expansion in the Central Texas region is greatly improved by the recent designation of Interstate 14 along the stretch of U.S. 190 from Belton

to Copperas Cove.

Immediate access to an Interstate highway is a requirement of many investors and business prospects, so the existence of an interstate will instantly increase the number of businesses that will consider locating in our community.

Existing businesses will also benefit from increased traffic on this corridor.

For information about the chamber's economic development work or data about the Killeen area, visit killeenedc.com

For more information about how to get involved with or join the chamber, call 254-526-9551 or visit killeenchamber.com.

Jennifer Hetzel is director of Research, Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce.

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Killeen's jobless rate falls to 3.8 percent in 2017

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Despite a year where work was halted and jobs were lost due to Hurricane Harvey, the Killeen unemployment rate was down in 2017 from the previous year.

In both 2015 and 2016, the city's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. That dropped four-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent in 2017, in a year that was especially tough on Texans elsewhere because of natural disasters.

Hurricane Harvey caused the most significant damage to the Texas economy in seven years, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. 33,000 jobs were lost, though 18,000 were recovered by November.

Meanwhile, in Bell County, the Killeen-Temple metro area was ranked among the top 10 cities in the state for annual job growth. The

annual job growth rate from last year to this year was 1.9 percent, and the 3,969 jobs posted in the city are a 3.9 percent increase from the past year.

Out of the 178,900 people that make up the area's work force, 7,400 of them were unemployed as of July 2017.

Lewis Boren, of the Central Texas Workforce Solutions, said Fort Hood could be responsible for the slightly higher unemployment numbers specific to Killeen.

"Fort Hood could be a factor with the slight difference in these unemployment rates due to these soldiers who are retiring out of Fort Hood on a daily basis, or those soldiers who are exiting the military due to their positions/jobs being reduced," he said in an email. "Or these soldiers are ETS — expiration of term of service — out of the military."

"More than likely, these soldiers may have Fort Hood/Killeen



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Soldiers ask about jobs at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport last year during a Fort Hood Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program mega hiring fair at Fort Hood's Club Hood.

addresses instead of Temple addresses."

Over the course of the year, the state of Texas added 240,500 jobs, according to a news release from the Texas Workforce Commission. The state had 13,622,067 jobs as of January 2018, and 567,978

unemployed people in the labor force, according to the TWC.

The average wage for someone in the Central Texas area is \$19.48 an hour, according to the TWC. The average entry level wage is \$9.16 an hour, and the average experienced wage is \$24.68.

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Bell County Museum provides new exhibits

BY VAL VALDEZ
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

For more than 25 years, the Bell County Museum has brought Central Texas history to life—from thousands of years ago to the present.

Museum director Coleman Hampton said the museum recognizes that the past influences the future.

“The museum collects, preserves and interprets the historic and prehistoric cultural heritage of the region for all citizens, and provides quality traveling exhibitions for their enjoyment and education,” Hampton said.

The museum provides new and engaging exhibits, along with permanent ones, blending regional with national interests.

Featured guest speakers this year include Dr. Dwight Watson, history professor at Texas State University, addressing the Civil Rights Movement, and Baylor University history professor Dr. Stephen Sloan, who will give a talk on “How Barbed Wire Changed the Chisholm Trail.”

The former Director of Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Dr. Ron Tyler, will speak on “Early Texas History through Art.”

Currently, the museum is hosting



JEN MORGAN | HERALD

The Bell County Museum is in Belton.

two major traveling exhibits. “Texas History” is composed of three separate exhibits: The Alamo, Texas Annexation, and Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Children can also sign their own copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

“Forgotten Gateway” explores the late 19th-early 20th century Texas port of Galveston. The exhibit features historical artifacts from Galveston’s Rosenberg Library and Temple’s Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center.

Visitors can enjoy interactive elements of signing a new citizen register and posting notes about their family history.

Educational outreach to youth is another important part of the museum’s work. Staff members visit local schools to talk with students and offer tours at the museum.

Killeen’s ordinances included changes in taxi regulations

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

In a move to create a level playing field for ground transportation companies, the Killeen City Council approved an ordinance in November easing regulations on city taxi and limousine franchises.

The new ordinance ends requirements for city inspections of ground transportation vehicles, adds two years to franchise agreement terms and brings driver background checks in line with state rules.

Over the course of 2017, the council had gone back and forth on regulating ride-sharing apps, or transportation network companies, before the Texas Legislature passed new legislation sweeping away local regulations in favor of statewide rules.

House Bill 100, authored by state Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, and sponsored by state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, required ride-share companies to pay a

\$5,000 annual state permit, and mandate drivers maintain digital identification information and not discriminate against passengers, among other regulations.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed the bill May 29.

The state law would require state permitting through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and requires an annual permit payment for ridesharing apps. The new state laws do not include the fingerprinting rules for drivers that led Uber to previously pull out of the city of Austin.

OTHER ORDINANCES

In 2017, the City Council also passed ordinances limiting the distance of cellular towers from the boundaries of residential and properties and decreasing their height, and passed an ordinance regulating the state-mandated access for telecommunication companies to public right-of-way poles.

The new rules on pole access were undertaken after a change in state law in 2017.

Teachers are encouraged to check out several traveling trunks for use in their classrooms. The museum also offers activities for kids during spring break and a weeklong Summer Camp in July.

The normal business hours for

the Bell County Museum are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, go to www.bellcountymuseum.org. Bell County Museum is at 201 N. Main St. in Belton.

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VOTED BEST IN CENTRAL TEXAS 2018

Two LULAC councils contribute to the community

BY VAL VALDEZ
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, The Killeen-Fort Hood LULAC Council 4535 offers multiple programs to serve all people of Central Texas. It is the oldest chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Bell County with many members involved in founding other Bell County Councils.

Starting on March 31, the council continues its citizenship training classes in conjunction with St. Joseph Catholic Church in Killeen. This 16-week-long course is for legal residents who are qualified for citizenship. The lessons include civics, as well as English as a Second Language. Registration forms are available at killeenlulac4535.org or contact rgvillaronga@gmail.com.

Since 2013, a partnership with St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Martins Episcopal Church with



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Mike Clark, candidate for U.S. House District 31, speaks, left, as candidates Mary Jennings "MJ" Hegar, moderator Sandra Blankenship, Dr. Christine Eady Mann and Kent Lester listen during the League of United Latin American Citizens Herencia Council No. 4297 political forum at the Killeen Community Center in Killeen on Feb. 1.

assistance from Catholic Charities of Central Texas, have prepared over 200+ students for citizenship interviews. The free classes are open to anyone and registration is available at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Office.

Education is a primary focus of LULAC Council 4535. The council has awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships since 2002. "For 2018, the LULAC Council 4535 plans to award an additional \$20,000," said Julia Villaronga, council President. Killeen LULAC Council 4535 Foundation chairman, Raul G. Villaronga said last year the council provided 16 scholarships to students at Killeen, Copperas Cove and Harker Heights' high schools, including two scholarships to students on medical tracks sponsored by Metroplex Hospital. The council also gave four scholarships to students at Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas. Scholarship applications are open to everyone. "We want to promote education. You don't have to be Hispanic to apply," he said. Individuals and companies can fund individual \$1,000 scholarships.

LULAC Council 4535 will present this year's scholarships April 14 at its annual banquet at the Marriott Courtyard in Killeen. The guest speaker is retired Maj. Gen. Freddie Valenzuela. "It's great to reach out and help kids get a college education," Valenzuela said. LULAC Council 4535 Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt nonprofit organization, and all donations are fully tax deductible. For more information on scholarships, banquets, tickets or Council

membership, call 1-800-KILLEEN.

HERENCIA COUNCIL 4297

A busy year was planned politically and socially for LULAC Herencia Council 4297. The Council hosted events to get the public involved with upcoming local elections: March 8 was the School Board Political Forum and March 22 scheduled for the City Council and Mayoral Political Forum, both at the Killeen Community Center. The council is also holding a canned food drive during the forums for a local church food pantry.

The main event is the annual "Our Heritage, My Legacy Gala," on May 12 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. This event honors young ladies in a group quinceañera and Sweet 16 party celebrating their academic achievements.

The council's officers are as follows: President: Anthony Rodriguez; Vice President: Modtrice Ford; Secretary: Temeka Jennings; Corresponding Secretary: Minerva Cotton; Treasurer: Victor Sanchez; Chaplain: Jackeline Fountain; Sergeant-at-Arms: Lorenzo Carrillo; Parliamentarian: Sandra Blankenship

For more information go to facebook.com/LULACHerenciaCouncil4297.

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Killeen Branch NAACP continues to work for equality

BY VAL VALDEZ
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Established in 1970, the Killeen Branch NAACP continues its long tradition of furthering goals of freedom and equality for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity or sex.

“The Killeen Branch NAACP goal is to remain fueled up for the upcoming elections and to get the voters mobilized, by reaching the masses and to get them moving by allowing their voices and vote to count,” said Rev. Samuel Powell Jr., Branch president.

Numerous branch events are planned throughout the year, including the Black History Month Program, “My Black Is Beautiful.”

The Education Committee was traveling with 50 students from Killeen ISD to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on a college tour March 9-10. The group will visit Southern University and A&M College, as

well as Louisiana State University. Among the sites, they will tour the Whitney Plantation, the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on slavery.

The branch also hosts an Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. This year it was set for March 16 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center with guest speaker, Pastor (Dr.) David G. Reynolds of Greater Vision Community Church. This year’s banquet theme was, “Paving the Way for Our Future Torchbearers.” During the banquet, the Killeen Branch was awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students.

The highlight for 2018 is the National Convention in San Antonio, July 14-18. Some local members are also serving on the Convention Committee.

The Branch continues to be a voice in the community and participates, and supports, many outreach efforts. Other yearly events include Juneteenth



HERALD | FILE

NAACP president Derrick Johnson speaks during the NAACP State Convention Banquet in Killeen on Oct. 14, 2017.

celebrations and the Back 2 School/ Stay In School Rally & Symposium that motivates students for the upcoming school year. Free school supplies and backpacks are distributed at the event.

The Branch meetings are held the third Monday of each month

at Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 4201 Zephyr Road, starting at 7 p.m. The meetings and membership are open to all interested persons.

To learn more about the NAACP, call 254-286-9211 or go to naacpkilleen.org

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KPD gets new chief; KFD unveils fire station

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Last year, both the police and fire departments welcomed new leadership. This year, one of the two groups welcomed a new boss.

Charles “Chuck” Kimble took over as the chief of Killeen police on Sept. 1, 2017. He came to the department from North Carolina, where he had served with the Fayetteville Police Department for 20 years, the final five as assistant police chief. He was most recently the police chief for the town of Spring Lake, North Carolina, before coming to Killeen.

Kimble took over the job from Margaret Young. Young, now the assistant chief, took over as the interim police chief in October 2016, when former police chief Dennis Baldwin was named the interim city manager.

On the fire department side, Brian Brank took over in an

interim capacity when Kenneth Hawthorn retired in 2016. On Nov. 7, 2016, that interim title was removed, and Brank became the first permanent fire chief in six months. He was chosen out of 53 candidates.

Since Brank’s taken the helm, KFD has seen the newest fire station unveiled. Fire Station No. 9 opened for operations on March 6, 2017, and is prepared to service a region of Killeen that is seeing a boom in population.

“Everyone gets excited to see something new,” Brank said at the open house, “whether it be City Council members, firefighters, residents, and I’m included in that.”

The station services residents in the southwest part of Killeen, a region that has grown rapidly over the past few years.

The \$4.52 million station has been open for a year, and services a region of Killeen that needed the help.



HERALD | FILE

Fire Station No. 9 opened for operation last March. The new fire station is servicing a region of Killeen that has seen a boom in population.



HERALD | FILE

Killeen Police Chief Charles Kimble left, speaks with Pastor Jimmy Towers during National Night Out in Killeen on Oct. 3, 2017. Police went to several neighborhoods and spoke with residents, getting to know them in an effort to bring the community closer.

Brank and the rest of the fire department has had its work cut out for them in the months of January and February. A serious lack of rain, coupled with high winds and dry conditions, sparked a series of fires that demanded area fire department’s attention.

One Killeen house fire resulted in the death of three young girls, while several others happened out in wide open fields,

Killeen police

The new chief has enlisted the help of the U.S. Department of Justice to try and get to the bottom of the city’s crime problem.

The DOJ Office of Justice Programs have partnered with the police department to perform a study of area crime and department response techniques.

The year 2017 was Killeen’s deadliest year for homicides in the last two decades, and has Killeen police actively trying to halt the upward climb of violent crime in 2018.

The police department headquarters was opened for use in 2010, and though not much has changed with the building, it’s still being used in a variety of different ways.

Since Kimble’s arrival, he has continued to push forward the importance of community policing, and the neighborhood watch

program. Members of the Killeen City Council such as Debbi Nash-King and Shirley Fleming have hosted several neighborhood watch meetings.

Community Crime Prevention Coordinator Tammy Moseley works with council members and residents alike in several neighborhoods throughout the city to help promote neighborhood watch.

“Law enforcement can’t do it all by themselves. We need that extra set of eyes and ears,” Moseley said when she talked about Killeen’s Citizen Police Academy. “The more eyes that we have out there to help us, the more we will be able to help citizens.”

One of the chief’s greatest obstacles is the budget. Though he said he would like to hire more officers, restraints have made it difficult to do so. Six cadets set out to become licensed police officers in early February through the Killeen Police Department Basic Peace Officer Academy, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that there will be six new police officers on staff upon graduation. Some currently employed officers will retire, and others may leave for different reasons.

“Everything pretty much evens out,” Kimble said.



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Expo Center booming, growing



FME | FILE

The framework of the new Equestrian/Livestock Complex is under construction in this photo from late last year. The facility is scheduled to open in August.

BY DAVE MILLER
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Bell County Expo Center marked its 30th anniversary in 2017 with a packed calendar of events and a series of special anniversary-themed concerts

As the facility moves into 2018, the planned opening of a new Equestrian / Livestock Complex has taken center stage.

The new equestrian facility will be air conditioned and will have an area of 170,000 square feet. It will feature an air-conditioned performance arena, a warmup arena, grill area, concourse and stock pens.

“We have already started booking the new facility that will open in August of this year,” said Expo Center Executive Director Tim Stephens.

Meanwhile, the current exposition building has received air conditioning and repainting and insulation, making it make it a prime exhibit space and competitive with other venues in the area.

“All of the improvements have put the Expo on a new level in terms of what we can attract,” Stephens said.

As it is, the Expo Center was humming with activity in 2017 — with events scheduled on 265 calendar days during the year.

Expo Center events were well-attended as well, with more than 403,000 people passing through the Expo Center’s doors to take part in 248 events the facility hosted in

2017.

The attendance total eclipsed the 2016 tally of 341,481 patrons, which was similar to the total for 2015.

Headlining the Expo Center’s offerings last year was the 30th Anniversary Concert Series, which began with a sold-out Willie Nelson show in March, followed by Casting Crowns, Bone Thugs N Harmony, ZZ Top, and winding up in November with a sold-out performance by Alan Jackson.

Patrons of Expo Center events accounted for \$6.3 million in convention spending last year.

So far, 2018 is shaping up to be even busier,

Already this year, the Expo Center has hosted several well-attended shows, including the Temple Area Builders Association Home and Garden Show, the Central Texas Boat and Outdoor Show, and the Mother Earth News Fair, as well as a concert by Toby Mac earlier this month.

“One of the new events coming to the exposition building is the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association world show coming at the end of June,” Stephens said.

Stephens said the Expo Center has booked a couple of concerts for the summer, but they haven’t been announced.

Stephens also said the Expo Center is adding a day to the Central Texas State Fair this year, starting it on Thursday, Aug. 30.

“We’re always striving to provide something new, and we thank all the people who have supported us,” Stephens said.

HOP continues to serve Central Texas

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The HOP provides urban and rural transit services to Central Texas passengers with its regional public transit system.

“More than 550,000 passengers boarded The HOP’s fixed route buses and more than 136,000 passengers boarded The HOP’s Special Transit Service buses in 2017” said Robert Ator, director of Urban Operations for The HOP.

Operated by Hill Country Transit District, the urban services include fixed-route service and ADA complementary paratransit service. Urban services began in the district’s Killeen Division in 2000 and in its Temple Division in 2002.

Currently, The HOP operates nine fixed routes, including route 65 in Copperas Cove; route 35 in Harker Heights; route 610 in Belton; routes 501 and 530 in Temple; and routes 2, 4, 5, and 100 in Killeen.

Route 200 is a commuter route that operates between Harker Heights and Temple with a stop in Nolanville and in Belton. It provides greater access to the Veterans Administration Hospital and Scott & White facilities in Temple, as well as access to and from work. The HOP also provides ADA complementary paratransit service within three-fourths of a mile of each fixed route.

The Hill Country Transit District’s service area covers over 9,000 square miles.

In addition to service in Bell County, The HOP provides rural transit in eight counties: Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, Mason, Llano, and San Saba.

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ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD;

Robert Ator, Director of Urban Operations for the Hill County Transit District, speaks during the district’s public hearing at the City Council chambers at Killeen City Hall. The Hill County Transit District is planning to close three Killeen routes which will restrict service system-wide for disabled residents.

and seamless public transit service is the main goal of The HOP. It uses modern fixed-route buses that can seat up to 35 passengers each. All fixed-route buses are equipped with a ramp to assist passengers, including those using mobility devices. Additionally, every fixed-route bus provides a two-position bicycle rack mounted at the front of the bus.

The HOP passengers benefit from four new fixed-route buses delivered in 2016 and three more new fixed-route buses will be delivered in early 2018.

Specific information regarding service, route maps, schedules, and riding rules is available on its web site at www.takethehop.com or by calling 254-933-700.

Killeen Food Care Center keeps meeting growing community's food needs

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Killeen Food Care Center has entered its 37th year, and the need keeps on growing.

"I wish we could be put out of a job, but there's always going to be folks who need food and no one should ever go hungry in our community," said Raymond Cockrell, executive director for the Food Care Center since August 2017. "People know they can count on us to deliver."

The center delivers more than just food; it's also about building fellowship.

Cockrell still remembers the mother of two and the Christmas basket.

"We had already finished handing out the baskets and someone contacted me on Facebook and let me know about this family that was just going to go without," Cockrell said. He reached out to her and arranged to deliver a basket, as well as a \$300 gift certificate from community members so she could buy Christmas presents for her boys.

"She and I cried together and her sons were just overwhelmed," Cockrell said. "Her kids really touched my heart, because I think involving children in giving will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

THE PRESENT

"We belong to the community; we're financed by the community and our volunteers come from the area," Cockrell said. He and four part-time staff members run the center, assisted by 60 regular volunteers who will be honored in March. "We couldn't do without them. Some people have more than 100 hours of volunteer time, and some have been helping us for 15 years."

The Food Care Center is part of a larger network.

It partners with the Central Texas Food Bank in Austin and serves as a distribution point to smaller food pantries in the region.

The Austin food bank brings a truckload of fresh fruit and vegetables for Fresh Food for Families on the fourth Friday of every month. On that one day, the Food Care Center serves up to 400 families.

"People are lined up out the door, rain or shine," Cockrell said. "People in need often miss out on fresh foods because it's something they can't afford."

THE FUTURE

The center started in 1981 as a collaboration between two local churches, and now around 30 churches donate regularly to the charity.

"We're seeing more folks than ever, especially as the city grows," Cockrell said. He is expecting to serve at least 80,000 individual clients, or 30,000 families, in this fiscal year that started in October. An average of 25 percent of clients are children and another quarter are seniors. The center serves many military members, both active and retired, he said.

They distribute around 2 million pounds of food each year, and still operate within a \$360,000 budget as they did last fiscal year.

Just like the struggling families they serve, the Food Care Center knows how to stretch a dollar: seven meals, or 1.25 pounds of food, can be purchased with a buck. Clients receive 35-40 pounds of food.

"We've gotten pretty efficient, and that all goes back to the volunteers and the community's

PLEASE SEE **FOOD CARE, PAGE 25**



HERALD | FILE

Raymond Cockrell, Killeen Food Care Center director, and Dennis Duffy look in the center's refrigerator to check for food to donate to First United Methodist Church in Killeen.

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FOOD CARE

FROM PAGE 24

support," he said.

However, as the center serves more people, financial challenges arise.

"We need for people to continue to support us, both financially and prayerfully," he said. The center appreciates food drives and donations, but monetary gifts are helpful to fill in gaps.

In the works is a community garden on the property, with the help of local Master Gardeners and other service organizations.

It all goes back to the little things, like the pure joy of one little girl around Christmas last year.

"Mommy, we have cupcakes!" she exclaimed.

"Something that simple means so much," Cockrell said.

Clients generally can get assistance from the food pantry once each month, but may go more often with a referral from the chaplain's office at Fort Hood or churches.

The Food Care Center, 210 N. 16th St., operates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month. To contact the center, call 254-554-3400 during operating hours. Cockrell suggested taking a look at the Facebook page for updates and information, as well as the website at www.foodcare.org.

OTHER AREA FOOD PANTRIES INCLUDE:

- Baptist Benevolence Ministry: 307 N. Fifth St., Copperas Cove
- Cove House: 108 E. Halstead Ave., Copperas Cove
- Copperas Cove Soup Kitchen: 201 N. 1st St., Copperas Cove
- Nolanville Food Pantry: 200 N. Main St., Nolanville
- Harker Heights Food Center: 100 E. Ruby Road, Harker Heights
- Families in Crisis: 103 E. Rancier, Killeen
- Friends in Crisis: 412 E. Sprott Ave., Killeen
- Greater Christ Gospel: 200 S. Gray St., Killeen
- ALCOG: 1210 Florence Road, Killeen
- Assembly of Prayer Food Pantry: 1013 Massey St., Killeen
- Southside Church of Christ Food Pantry: 1505 Trimmier Road, Killeen
- Hamilton-Manjang Mission House: 1004 Jefferis Ave., Killeen
- Joseph's Ministry Food Pantry: 4213A Veterans Memorial Blvd., Killeen
- House of Mercy: 625 E. Veterans Memorial, Harker Heights
- Destiny World Outreach Center Pantry: 101 N. WS Young Drive, Killeen
- Operation Phantom Support: 317 Ave. C, Killeen



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DAILY HERALD
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Killeen Animal Shelter continues to grow

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Killeen Animal Shelter is making progress toward becoming a no-kill shelter, having achieved a live release percent of 96 during the month of January.

The general consensus on what qualifies a shelter for no-kill status is maintaining a live release percentage of 90 or greater for multiple months.

“The staff and volunteers at the shelter are very proud of January’s statistics, the 96 percent live release rate was no easy feat, and we could not do it alone,” interim shelter manager Lt. Tony McDaniel said. “We are very fortunate to have the assistance of rescue groups here locally and throughout the state that have opened their doors and offered to take in animals when we got near capacity. We also have some wonderful transport volunteers who are instrumental in getting our shelter animals to our rescue partners.”

McDaniel became the interim director at the shelter in late February, after the previous director, Ed Tucker, submitted his retirement while on administrative leave.

Aside from McDaniel, the shelter has several employees to help take care of the animals. The shelter employs five licensed animal control officers, three shelter assistants, three kennel technicians and one veterinary technician. The shelter also has several volunteers that support its operations.

“We have an amazing partnership with the Killeen Career Center and students who are a part of the vet tech program there (who) come in daily to work alongside our vet tech and assist with shelter operations,” McDaniel said. “On average we have about four to five students coming in each day to help.”

The shelter has made several improvements over the past year. In October, The Killeen Animal Alliance and various donors worked to raise funds for several industrial-grade air purifiers to be purchased and installed at the animal shelter. Four air purifiers were installed in the cat rooms at the shelter and a fifth was added to the stray-dog building. The purifiers are meant to help eliminate harmful bacteria and viruses in the air.

The shelter is also continuing its voucher program into the foreseeable future.

The continuation of our voucher program and partnerships with several area vets has greatly improved our ability to help both the animals at the shelter and members of our community,” McDaniel said. “Currently we are able to issue vouchers to citizens who are adopting or redeeming their pet from the shelter. These vouchers can in turn be redeemed at participating vet clinics for a free rabies vaccination and spay or neuter surgery.”

At max capacity, the shelter is able to hold 75 dogs and 68 cats.

The animal shelter is at 3118 Commerce St.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Volunteer Nicole Ortiz walks a pit bull at the Killeen Animal Shelter on Nov. 3, 2017.

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Herald continues to expand services, offerings

BY DAVE MILLER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Herald, now in its 128th year of operation, continues to expand its offerings and services to the fast-growing Central Texas community.

The Herald has evolved far beyond its roots as a small, weekly newspaper serving a fledgling cotton-farming town prior to the arrival of Camp Hood in 1942.

Today, as part of the multifaceted KDH Media Group, the Herald continues to provide the latest news and information across a variety of platforms.

The Herald serves the area with an award-winning daily newspaper, as well as three weekly community publications.

The Herald also continues to expand its digital footprint with a wide spectrum on online platforms, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, as well as its user-friendly

website, kdhnews.com.

Earlier this year, the Herald launched its text alert system, providing readers with the latest breaking local news via text message to their smartphones.

Herald readers can sign up for a number of categories — local news, crime, weather, traffic, schools and sports — free of charge.

The simple process involves sending a text to 96362 and specifying which category of news is requested.

Readers then receive a reply confirming they have signed up. Readers can sign up for as many categories as they like.

When breaking news occurs, readers who have registered will receive a text informing them of the news and linking them to the full story at kdhnews.com.

Last fall, the Herald added KDHEvents.com, an online site designed to help readers stay informed about events and activi-



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

From left, District 54 candidates Dr. Brad Buckley, incumbent Rep. Scott Cosper, Larry Smith and Kathy Richerson participate in the Killeen Daily Herald District 54 political forum at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center Jan. 22.

ties going on throughout the area. Readers can share their experiences via Twitter at #KDHEvents and through a designated Facebook page.

Also in the past year, the Herald began streaming coverage of selected events and meetings via Facebook Live, increasing reader accessibility and engagement.

Among the live-streamed programs were two political forums hosted by the Herald this year — one for Texas House District 54 candidates and another kicking off the race for Killeen City Council and mayoral candidates earlier this month, as well as a hearing on a planned chemical plant and community crime meetings.

Continuing its strong tradition of political coverage, the Herald offers candidate bios, video interviews, issue-oriented Q&As and election information on all local races of interest at its politics site, kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics.

Between 2015 and 2017, the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors have honored the Herald with 46 awards for outstanding reporting, photography and design.

In each of the last two years, the Herald has been recognized for its investigative journalism with the TAPME's Star Investigative Report

of the Year, the top award for the paper's circulation category.

Last year, the Herald also won Star awards for Reporter of the Year and Opinion Writer of the Year for its circulation class.

The TAPME named the Herald as Newspaper of the Year in 2011 and 2013, and the paper took second-place honors in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

This year's awards will be handed out next month at a conference in Corpus Christi.

The Herald continued its strong investigative reporting last year, with an in-depth series of articles looking into the four-month external audit of the city's finances.

The paper also took a close look at a huge increase in county property appraisals that shocked local business owners and caused a major public outcry.

In addition, the Herald published a special section that examined the pros and cons of a 4,300-home development — known as a municipal utility district — to be built south of Killeen and requiring significant infrastructure investment by the city.

Finally, the Herald took an in-depth look at the Killeen school district's proposed bond issue, which

PLEASE SEE **HERALD, PAGE 29**

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HERALD

FROM PAGE 28

is scheduled to go before voters in May. In a series of articles beginning in October, the Herald continues to follow the process to putting a bond on the ballot and reported on how the proposed projects would impact the community and its taxpayers.

Other segments of KDH Media Group also expanded their offerings during the past year. KDH Digital Services and the Herald's full-spectrum commercial printing service, KDH Printing, continued to provide a wide array of products and services to local businesses.

In addition to its award-winning daily publication, the Herald also produces three established weekly publications — the Harker Heights Herald, Copperas Cove Herald and the Fort Hood Herald.

The Herald also publishes two monthly magazines for its readers: Homefront and the Homefinder real estate magazine.

In conjunction with the Temple



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

CW3 Nathan Bergkamp, left, asks Rynda Wortham, an Action Career Training recruiter and admissions representative, about career and educational opportunities during the last year's Killeen Spring Job Fair at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The Killeen Daily Herald will sponsor three job fairs in 2018.

Daily Telegram, the Herald also publishes a regional magazine called Tex Appeal. Now entering its sixth year, the high-gloss publication offers news and features focusing on local individuals and businesses.

A recent survey conducted by a national consumer research service found the KDH Media Group — which includes the Killeen Daily Herald — is the top media company in its market.

According to the Nielsen Scar-

borough firm, the KDH Media Group, through its print and online products, reaches nearly one out of every two adults in the greater Fort Hood/Central Texas area, including Killeen, Fort Hood, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, Nolanville, Gatesville and Florence.

The Herald's involvement with the local community extends beyond simply keeping residents informed. The Herald this year will sponsor three job fairs at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center, up from two in previous years.

The Herald also hosted a bridal show at the conference center, as it has since 2006.

As the longest continually operating business in Killeen, the Daily Herald remains a trusted source for news and information — committed to timely, accurate and thorough coverage of the issues that impact Central Texas.

"It is exciting to be a part of the growth and development of our area," said Sue Mayborn, the Herald's editor and publisher. "We take very seriously our role and responsibility of being a credible news source."

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Multiple new businesses opening in area cities

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Several new businesses are making their way to Killeen in the near future, with many different business permits being issued in 2017. The combined value of all new commercial business permits is \$11.77 million.

Many of the new businesses coming to the area are retail stores, including a new Aldi's.

The new Aldi, a discount grocery store where customers typically bag or box their own groceries, will be at 3501 W. Stan Schlueter Loop, east of Robinett Road.

CarMax, a used-car dealer chain, will also be moving to Killeen on the former site of Faith Point Church, 3504 E. Central Texas Expressway, an area surrounded by other car dealers.

Aldi, CarMax and other businesses coming to Killeen this year were listed in a recent economic quarterly update from the Killeen Chamber of Commerce.

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Other businesses on the chamber's list included Conn's, Dollar Tree and Lumber Liquidators — all of which are being built in the former Kmart shopping center at 1101 S. Fort Hood St.

Kmart shut down last year after being open since 1978.

Conn's HomePlus, a retail store specializing in electronics, furniture and appliances, will occupy about half of the old Kmart building.

Lumber Liquidators is a business that specializes in hardwood flooring. It currently operates over 380 flooring stores — 31 of which are in Texas — and is headquartered in Colonial Heights, Virginia.

Dollar Tree stores carry items including food, snacks, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies,



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Customers walk into Conn's HomePlus in Killeen on March 9. The new 45,000-square-foot store, at Wendland Plaza, 1101 S. Fort Hood St., opened Feb. 23. It's at the site of the former Kmart, which closed in March 2017.

family apparel, housewares, seasonal items, paper products and more.

Also on the chamber's list to open in 2018: GattiTown, 2497 E. Central Texas Expressway, and Little Tokyo, a Japanese restaurant to be built near GattiTown.

GattiTown Pizza will be the first franchise location for Gatti's Pizza in seven years. The development, under construction now, is

expected to cost \$2 million to build. Gatti's currently reports 69 franchises and 94 locations across the country.

Also on the chamber's list were Pep Boys, an automotive chain, at 2002 E. Central Texas Expressway, and Burger King, 2902 Clear Creek Road. Both locations opened near the end of 2017.

Another business coming to the area is Pet Supermarket. Valued at \$1.77 million, the building

housing Pet Supermarket will be a sizable addition to Killeen, with an estimated square footage of 15,204 feet. The business will be at 2602 Trimmier Road, south of Bacon Ranch Road.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Killeen's next door neighbor has also seen several permits issued for the construction of new businesses. Harker Heights permits were worth a total value of \$1.11 million.

Knights Family Dentistry is currently up and operating at 980 E. Knights Way.

The Sylvan Learning Center also opened a branch in Harker Heights at 440 E. Central Texas Expressway.

A shell building opened up at 326 Morgan St. this past year, and one of the businesses it contains is Keep In Touch Massage Therapy.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Patrons enjoy food and games at Gatti's Pizza in Killeen on March 14. The new family establishment is located at 497 E. Central Texas Expressway in Killeen.

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Area sees eleven percent rise in property value

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Fort Hood area saw an 11 percent growth in average property values in 2017, according to Brian Adams, a Killeen real estate agent. That was with slightly fewer property sales than the year before, as 3,137 homes were sold in the area.

“Every city in the Fort Hood area saw benefits, with median prices rising across the board, with incredible 21.9 percent growth in Copperas Cove, seeing its median price just eclipse Killeen,” he said.

The average home price in Killeen is up nearly 9 percent this year, from \$113,000 last year to \$116,000 right now, according to Adams. There were 1,907 homes sold in Killeen in 2017. The average home spent 75 days on the market, at 15.5 percent of homes were foreclosed upon.

Traditionally, area home values since 2000 have been mostly flat, Adams said, as they just keep pace with inflation. There is plenty of new construction, which generates an ample supply of inventory to keep up with the housing demand.

“We are doing a little better than inflation now, based on single-family home resales in the Fort Hood area (Killeen, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, Nolanville, Kempner, Lampasas, Florence, Gatesville),” Adams said in an email. “Going back to 2009, our average growth rate has been 2.9 percent compared to 1.69 percent



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Several homes are seen off of Stan Schlueter Loop Killeen in Killeen on March 21.

inflation over the same length of time.”

Killeen survived the 2008 housing crash relatively unscathed because home values had not climbed anywhere nearly as dramatically as they had in places like Florida, California and Nevada. Foreclosures are still prevalent in the area but dropping. The overwhelming majority of foreclosures — about 65 percent of them — are due to VA home loan foreclosures.

Buyers shouldn't count on appreciation when buying a home, according to Adams. But real estate is an inflation-resistant asset, and

the Fort Hood area is keeping up with the national market, which is beating inflation soundly, he said.

The average price of a home in the Fort Hood area was \$105,000 in 2009. Now, that number is at \$132,000, a significant jump from 2016's figure of \$118,950.

The average home in Copperas Cove is valued at \$98,000, according to Zillow.com's market overview. That is a 1.6 percent increase over the past year. Zillow predicts that the average price will rise 2.7 percent within the next year, bringing the average home value to \$101,000. The average listing price of the homes on the market is about \$136,500, which is up from \$132,000 from 2017.

The average property value for a home in Nolanville is \$132,800. Nolanville home values have gone up a slight 1.7 percent over the past year and Zillow predicts they will rise 2.6 percent within the next year. The average list price per square foot in Nolanville is \$111, which is higher than the Killeen Metro average of \$87.

The average property value in Gatesville is the lowest in the area at \$90,700. That's still a 2.7 percent increase from last year, according to

Zillow.

The Harker Heights average property value is \$176,000, according to Zillow. That's a 3.7 percent increase from last year.

The Killeen city property tax rate has remained at 74.98 cents per \$100 of taxable value assessed since 2011. It was raised to that rate from 69.5, which had been the rate since 2007.

That property tax rate is the second-highest in the area. Copperas Cove's rate is 79.79 cents, which is also unchanged from last year, while Harker Heights is unchanged at 67.7 cents and Belton's is 65.98 cents.

Across the state, the average property value is \$175,200, still well above the average property value in the Killeen-Fort Hood area, which is \$132,000. The state's average property value is up 7.6 percent from last year.

The area's average is well below that of the rest of the country, who after a 6.7 percent increase in property value from last year, now has an average of \$207,600, according to Zillow. That is projected to increase another 3.1 percent in the next year.

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Acquisition of Union State leads banking news

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

A longtime local bank will get a new name in 2018 after it was acquired last year by another Texas branch.

Union State Bank, a 90-year-old Florence-based financial institution, with a branch in Harker Heights, was acquired by Citizens National Bank in September.

In addition to the branch at 335 E. Farm-to-Market 2410 in Harker Heights, Union State Bank has branches in Killeen, Florence, Georgetown, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Temple, offering a full range of banking services, the release stated.

The acquisition agreement between Union State and Henderson Citizens Bancshares — Henderson-based Citizens National's holding company — created a 36-branch combined entity totaling \$2.3 billion in Title assets.

Union State had eight branches with \$470 million in assets as of June 30, 2017.

"This is a great fit for us," said Coleen Beck, president and CEO of Union State, whose family has majority owned the bank since 1972. "The combined strengths of the banks will benefit our customers, employees and communities."

Union State Bank was chartered in 1928 and founded in 1930 in Florence, according to the release.

"We are proud to be partnering with USB and its seasoned team," said Brad Tidwell, president and chief executive of Citizens National. "It's an exciting opportunity to serve the customers of Union State Bank and Citizens National Bank — offering each an expanded footprint and higher level of service."

Following the acquisition, longtime bank official T.E. Beck retired in March. Beck had been an employee of Union State Bank for 60 years, and retired as the executive vice president.

"I guess I'm just your average Texan. I've ranched as long as I've banked, and I'm not retiring from



HERALD | FILE

Union State Bank, located in Harker Heights, was among eight branches acquired by Citizens National Bank in September.

ranching; now I will have more time to spend on the ranch," he said. "My wife has a long list of things for me to do now that I will have time."

As for Texas First State Bank, not much changed in 2017, and that's been the story for a while now. But Vice President Claudia Bentley hopes that is going to change soon.

"We're going to build next year, but right now, we're in the stage of nothing different," Bentley said. "Next year there are possibly big changes, but this year there's not much going on."

Two new branches of First National Bank of Texas opened up in Killeen in 2017. Both locations are located on Stan Schlueter Loop; one is inside a Walmart, and the other is inside the newest H-E-B in the area. Both opened on Nov. 2, according to Rhia Bridges, the assistant branch manager of the H-E-B Stan Schlueter Branch.

There are a total of eight First National Bank branches in Killeen. There are also three in Harker Heights and two in Copperas Cove.



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Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity updates programs, multiplies projects

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity (FHAHFH) continues to expand its services, partnerships, and projects across Central Texas, thanks to the area's volunteers, donors and new community partners.

In this previous year, the local affiliate has tripled its home builds, started the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, established a Critical Home Repair/ Preservation program, and has broken ground on its first of several communities serving Veterans of Central Texas.

Over the past year, Habitat has adjusted its programs to directly serve more community members

through financial training, affordable home improvement opportunities, and referral program to other support services. This change has allowed the affiliate to serve more families, small businesses, and other nonprofit organizations by saving them money and improving their home or facility and quality of life. These services are open to the public, at its ReStore location in Killeen.

Ken Cates has been the CEO of FHAHFH since August 2015, right after retiring from over 25 years of service, out of Fort Hood.

He immediately challenged his staff and volunteers with the growth the affiliate has experienced over the past year.

PLEASE SEE **HABITAT, PAGE 41**

CY2017 Fort Hood Area Habitat's Snapshot



COURTESY OF | FHAHFH

An overview of how Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity has served the community.

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HABITAT

FROM PAGE 40

Between 2012 and 2016, FHAHFH completed a total of five new homes and a couple of small cleanup projects. For 2017, the affiliate's efforts included the following project completions:

- 3 new homes completed and dedicated
- 2 new homes under construction
- 8 home repairs
- 5 community clean-up projects
- 3 local city park clean-up partnerships
- 3 Veteran home repair/preservations

A common myth about Habitat for Humanity is that the organization is federally funded.

"Habitat is not a federally funded program, Cates explained. "Without businesses and local donors, our affiliate will not be able to continue this pace of projects."

Continuing this level of impact on the community, the affiliate is heavily reliant on local donations, business sponsors/partners, and participation in fundraising events.

For the past year, less than 18 percent of all income goes toward non-program costs, like facility maintenance, fundraising costs, and other administrative fees. This allows a large percentage of all donations and income to be applied directly back to their programs.

The affiliate has also been recognized by GuideStar as a Platinum Level nonprofit with the Transparency Seal for 2017.

For the past seven months, Cates has partnered with businesses and organizations in a new planned development scheduled for completion by December 2018, in Temple.

This first community will serve 26 homeless veterans, as part of the Veterans Build Initiative.

Cates, also Chairman of the Habitat Texas Veterans Advisory Council, added, "This is the first of its kind for Habitat for Humanity International, and Texas. No other community directly serving



KIM STOCK | HERALD

This is the new home of Andy Diluzio located at 3202 Valencia Drive in Killeen. This is the 70th home that Habitat for Humanity has provided in the Fort Hood area. Andy's new home is completely ADA compliant with many unique features that allow him to be self-sufficient in his wheelchair.

this population of forgotten heroes, with homeownership opportunities, in this same way."

This is only the first of several planned communities of its kind.

"Our next community is currently in the planning phase for Nolanville," Cates said. "It will also serve veterans, with a focus on families, as opposed to singles or single couples like our Temple community."

The street name for the Temple project has been approved by the city of Temple, as Honor Lane. The groundbreaking ceremony for this community was held on March 3.

Habitat for Humanity's Mission Statement: "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

With their volunteers, the local affiliate is accomplishing its mission.

1 Peter 4:10 states: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..."

Cates added, "That is what we are accomplishing here at Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity. Our volunteers have been amazing

this past year, and we foresee more to come in the next five years. There are always volunteer opportunities with the local Habitat affiliate."

In the past year, over 1,200 volunteers exceeded 47,000 hours building homes, revitalizing neighborhoods, improving the ReStore, assisting with fundraising events and serving the community, with FHAHFH.

This is more than a 300 percent increase in volunteer efforts with Habitat.

Interns from Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas also assist in the offices with homeowner files, construction, family mentoring, outreach programs and digitizing historical files.

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based nonprofit organization that builds strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter across Central Texas, serving Bell, Coryell, and Lampasas counties.

The affiliate, located in Killeen, serves the public across all three counties. Selected families provide at least 300 hours of "sweat

equity," of which 50 hours must be construction of homes and other construction projects. The family then signs a nonprofit mortgage for the cost of building the home. Cates said having volunteers build the homes removes labor fees from the overall cost of the home, reducing the final cost.

Businesses are openly invited to assist in the amazing impact in the three-county community, by sponsoring builds, programs, and other events throughout the year. Businesses are encouraged to coordinate a team-building day with Habitat.

Another growth the local affiliate is partnerships with local building suppliers.

Thanks to their partnership, the ReStore has been able to increase sales and savings to the community, further assisting the community with their efforts of improving their homes and other projects.

Visit Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity at www.fhahfh.org, or 2601 Atkinson Ave., Killeen or call 254-680-4007 for information and ways to donate, shop or volunteer.

Killeen housing market stable; prices increasing

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Residential permits are continuing their downward trend of the past few years, according to the Killeen Building Inspection Office.

“We permitted 611 new homes last year, down from 690 new homes the previous year,” Melissa Gonzales with the city permit office said.

Despite the steady decline in single-family residence construction, the housing market countywide is still considered to be stable. According to data published by the Texas A&M Real Estate Center, Bell County currently has a housing inventory of three months. This means that at the current rate of housing sales, the number of houses presently on the market would last for three months before new houses would need to be built to keep up with demand.

“The area’s housing market is strong right now,” Roger Chesser, deputy chief appraiser for Bell County, said. “Three to four months of inventory reflects a strong market.”

The median home price from January 2018 for houses in the Killeen-Temple area is \$145,000, according to data gathered by the Real Estate Center.

Supply and demand determines median home prices for the area. Military personnel represent one of the biggest markets in the



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Home construction is seen in the 5700 block of Luminous Lane in Killeen on March 21.

Killeen area, but service members often have to sell and buy without the negotiating that normally goes into the house-shopping process.

According to the Real Estate Center, 269 houses were sold in January 2018, down from 310 units sold in January 2017. The 269 homes sold were worth a total value of \$44.15 million. The current median home price in Bell County is \$150,000, with median prices ranging between \$145,000 and \$164,900 last year.

“Prices on housing are increasing slightly, which is what they should be doing,” Chesser said. “It’s probably a bit of a seller’s market right now, as demand is strong in this area.”

HARKER HEIGHTS

The city of Harker Heights also continued to experience growth in its housing market.

Permit officials issued a total of 58 permits for the construction of new single-family residences between January and December of 2017. The new houses were worth a combined total of \$14.92 million. The median home price for the year was \$246,600.

The city also issued 21 permits for the construction of new homes since Jan. 1, 2018.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

Multi-family housing sales and construction numbers have been lower, with no new apartment

complexes being permitted in 2017. However, some multi-family housing finished construction in 2017.

The Killeen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, at 5000 Thayer Drive, finished construction and opened for business in August 2017. The business also began construction on a new building that same month, which would allow for 25 more residents.

“We do have some multi-family units being built in Temple and Belton, in that area of the county,” Chesser said. “Killeen is much more a single-family area, so single-family residences and duplexes do well there.”



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Local Realtors group advocates for community

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors provides political advocacy, community involvement and continuing education to its members.

The group does not offer real state brokerage service, despite common misconception, according to Michael DeHart, the association executive. Instead, the group works to protect property owner's rights in the Fort Hood area.

The FHAAR helped pass legislation that prohibits a tax on real estate transactions, according to DeHart. This overruled a tax that DeHart believed to be unfair on many Texans.

"So, who are the Texas Realtors, the members of FHAAR?" DeHart said in a written statement. "Well, our children go to school with your children, we stand in the grocery check out line same as you, shop in the same stores, enjoy off time just

like you."

According to DeHart, the FHAAR has taken a stand against dramatic property tax increases and the current appraisal process. Part of the increase in local property tax revenue can be attributed to new property added to the appraisal roll and higher property values.

"However, an increase in property value should not be an automatic increase in property tax revenue," DeHart said. "A more honest and transparent conversation needs to occur so taxpayers completely understand why more tax revenue is needed. But the current system is confusing, and it ends up with more Texans seeing a hidden property tax increase."

Additionally, the group supports the repeal of the "estimated property taxes" statement from the appraisal notice of value, as well as faster discovery in appraisal value lawsuits.

DeHart — and the FHAAR — takes



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

The Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors building is photographed in Killeen on March 21.

issue with the property tax appraisal process. While a cap has been in place for 20 years that limits that year-to-year appraisal increase to just 5 percent. However, DeHart said that could distort housing purchase decisions by keeping property taxes low for long term residents.

"The prospect of appraisal

caps "threatens to impact the marketability of new homes and retard demand for new development by increasing the burden of purchasing new homes or even moving to another existing home. As time passes that impediment would continue to grow into a sizable distortion of the housing market," he said.

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Darnall adding specialties, programs

BY ROSEL THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two years in its new 1.6 million square-foot facility, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood is expanding and growing patient services.

The hospital system serves nearly 100,000 beneficiaries, and consists of the main hospital with primary care and emergency services along with inpatient medical and behavioral health services. Darnall has a 151-bed capacity. On an average day, Darnall sees 3,700 daily visitors, which equates to roughly 1 million encounters per year. Of those visits about 1.2 million prescriptions keep its 13 pharmacies busy.

Darnall's command team, led by its new commander Col. David R. Gibson, says the mission is to provide quality, patient-centered care that promotes soldier readiness, as well as community health and resilience.

Aside from the main hospital on post, Darnall's primary care clinics are on the installation and within neighboring communities. Of the primary care clinics, five are patient-centered medical homes, four are soldier-centered medical homes, and three are community-based medical homes. A fourth community-based medical home is expected to open later this year in Killeen.

Darnall has over 40 medical



GABE WOLF | HERALD

The courtyard of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood.

specialties, and recently added a rheumatologist, a spine surgeon and a plastic surgeon to the team.

Darnall has received recognition for its level of care. It's ranked No. 2 of 42 military health system facilities, putting it in the top 5 percent. It ranked in the top 4 percent of U.S. hospitals in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, and was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award by Uniformed Services University.

Delivering babies is an important part of what happens at Darnall, with 2,480 babies born in 2017. A

new layette program ensures each baby delivered receives a unit-branded gift before leaving the hospital.

TREATING INJURIES

To help soldiers dealing with fitness-related injuries, Darnall launched the Fort Hood Sparta Clinic open during morning physical training. It provides early evaluation and treatment for acute musculoskeletal injuries.

In January 2017, the Fort Hood Intrepid Spirit center opened its doors and began patient treatment, caring for soldiers suffering from traumatic brain injuries, as well as post-traumatic stress and other psychological health conditions.

The \$11 million dollar facility was privately funded through the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. It is the fourth in a series of nine such facilities to open on military bases across the country.

In January, Second Lady Karen Pence visited the center to champion its art therapy program.

"People think it's arts and crafts, but that's not what art therapy is," Pence said. "It is a mental health profession where a trained therapist uses art as their medium

to help guide someone through the healing process."

Pence has partnered with the Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network, a joint pro-arts initiative between the National Endowment for the Arts, the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, which put creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care at Fort Hood and 10 other military medical facilities across the country.

Pence's trip to Fort Hood included a tour of the Intrepid Spirit Center, an orientation to its Healing Arts program and a roundtable discussion with community leaders about the integration of art therapy in caring for service members.

"I hear a lot of stories about soldiers who initially don't want to go into art therapy sessions because it doesn't seem like the strong or tough thing to do," Pence said. "But then I hear them talk about the tremendous relief and success they experience after art therapy. One soldier confided in me that he doesn't go to that dark place anymore. Hearing success stories like that is powerful. It shows that art therapy saves lives."

Peter Buotte, healing arts and therapy coordinator, said art therapy fosters a safe, supportive environment for therapeutic self-expression.

"At its deepest, the art therapy process can go beyond the verbal – and even beyond the recognizable image - in order to emotionally engage with the patient/client," Buotte said.

Art and music therapy have been integral components of the Intrepid Spirit Center's multi-disciplinary approach to restoring service member's medical readiness for more than a year. The center is one component of the comprehensive system of behavioral health care offered for service members and their families at Darnall.

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As Baylor Scott & White grows, so does level of care

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Baylor Scott & White Health provides a wide range of primary care and specialized care services through its network of hospitals and clinics.

Locally, several primary care clinics continue to serve the community, including Scott & White Clinic – Killeen, which has served for more than 37 years.

Bell County continues to grow and Baylor Scott & White has seen an increase in patients visiting clinics in Killeen, Copperas Cove and Harker Heights. In addition, the Baylor Scott & White Convenient Care Clinic – Killeen serves primary care and urgent care needs. Same-day appointments are available at Baylor Scott & White primary care and specialty care clinics.

Specialty care services at the Scott & White Specialty Clinic – Killeen Hemingway include: cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, general surgery, pulmonary, neurology and more. The clinic's pain management services have expanded, adding an additional provider to support a variety of outpatient services, including spinal cord stimulation to help manage chronic pain symptoms.

Baylor Scott & White Mental Health Clinic – Harker Heights, formerly at 3106 S. W.S. Young Drive in Killeen, moved to its new location at 326 Morgan St. in Harker Heights. The clinic provides adult mental health services as well as child and adolescent mental health care.

Baylor Scott & White Cancer Center – Killeen on the Metroplex Hospital campus has hematology/oncology and radiation oncology services, including an anticoagulation clinic with same-day appointments. The clinic will be expanding to provide additional services.

EXPANDING TO SERVE CHILDREN

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple is the area's only Level II pediatric trauma facility. It celebrated six years of service Oct. 4, 2017. Since opening in 2011,



COURTESY | STEVE HINDS;

Scott & White Medical Center in Temple continues to serve Central Texas.

McLane Children's has recorded more than: 1,368,000 clinic visits; 161,000 emergency department visits; 27,000 surgeries; and 24,000 inpatient discharges. McLane Children's offers pediatric services, including primary care, at the Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Clinic – Killeen.

"We continue to see the growing need to provide services for children in the Central Texas as well as surrounding areas," said John L. Boyd III, M.D., president and chief medical officer of Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's. "As result, we are implementing a number projects that will help provide for more access to preventive and critical care needs."

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center began efforts in late 2017 to prepare for its second campus expansion, constructing a new Central Utility Plant that will support future infrastructure on the medical center campus. Also in 2017, a new community mobility-accessible musical playground was built in the front of the medical center. The 9,561-square-foot gated playground offers therapeutic benefits for all patients, has features that can assist in development and healing, as well being a place for the community.

In 2018, McLane Children's will add an additional 20,000 square feet of space, including expanding the emergency department with five more exam rooms, adding a second MRI, as well as increasing space for physical therapy/occupational therapy areas.

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's neonatal and pediatric

transport team has answered thousands of calls since march 2013. Last year, the hospital added a second ambulance, affectionately known as "Little Brother," with help from the Baylor Scott & White Visionaries' annual Boots and Bandanas fundraising event. Brandon Dudik, manager for Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's transport team, said: "We are grateful for the opportunity to help transport children and their family members in what can be tough times during a medical event."

GROWING

Scott & White Medical Center – Temple, a Baylor Scott & White's flagship hospital, is a 636-bed facility and the only Level I trauma center between Austin and Dallas. It continues to provide personalized, high-quality care, and advanced medical education and research.

From caring for colds, providing advanced care for chronic illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes, to complex surgical care such as heart and kidney transplants, the hospital uses an innovative approach to caring for the needs of Central Texas.

As the hospital continues to thrive, its kidney pancreas transplant broke 2016's record of 87 abdominal transplants by performing 153. In 2017, 140 patients, with some as far as San Antonio and Abilene, received life-saving organs.

"This accomplishment is a result of our team's commitment to providing exemplary care for the many patients in need of a kidney transplant," said Abbie Dawson, nurse supervisor of the transplant

program at Scott & White – Temple.

The hospital will open a surgical sciences facility in the summer. The facility, adjacent to the hospital, will augment and increase the hospital's number of operating room suites.

"This facility brings high-level surgical care close to home for residents of Temple and the surrounding communities. With this new initiative, we are expanding our high-tech capabilities and combining them with the high-touch personal care that our patients come to expect," said Shahin Motakef, president of Baylor Scott & White Health Temple and Central Region.

2017 AWARDS

- Healthgrades – America's 100 Best Hospitals
- American Heart Association and American Stroke Association - Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus -Target: Stroke ELITE Plus
- American Heart Association - Mission: Lifeline(R) STEMI Receiving Center - GOLD PLUS Achievement Award Hospital
- American Heart Association - Mission: Lifeline(R) NSTEMI – Bronze Achievement
- Award, Blue Cross Blue Shield - Blue Distinction® Centers for Bariatrics
- US News World & Report – Rated one of Top 10 Texas Hospitals
 - Nationally ranked in ear, nose and throat care
 - High-performing in two specialties: gastroenterology and GI surgery, as well as pulmonology.
 - High-performing in four common procedures or conditions: heart failure, colon cancer surgery, COPD and knee replacement

DESIGNATIONS:

- Level IV NICU Designation
- Safe Place Designation
- Gold-Certified Safe Sleep Center

Metroplex Foundation supports hospital's ongoing mission through fundraising

BY ROSEL THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to support from the community, the Metroplex Foundation continues to raise funds to further improve care for patients.

The largest foundation fundraiser is the Gold Star Gala, held each November.

During the gala, the foundation aims to raise a specific amount of money to support the purchase of equipment. In 2017, the focus was on raising \$100,000 to cover the cost of two Thermo Scientific Excelsior AS Tissue Processors. They went beyond the goal, bringing in \$125,000, said TaNeika Driver-Moultrie, foundation director.

"The community sent a message to let us know this piece of equipment we were getting for hospital was very much needed and very vital to our lab department here at Metroplex," she said.

The old tissue processor that had been in use for many years would often break down, forcing the hospital to send out samples for external testing. This would often result in biopsy results taking up to three days to come back to the patient.

"This put the patients' minds at ease," Driver-Moultrie said. Results are now available within 24 to 48 hours. "It's one of those anxiety killers of just having to wait for results."

Thanks to a generous donor who

provided funds in front of the gala, Metroplex was able to purchase the first of the two machines in September. The second is a backup, should the first need any repairs.

This year's gala is scheduled for Nov. 1.

Two other major fundraising events for the hospital are the Spring Golf Tournament, scheduled for April 13, and the Sporting Clays Tournament on Aug. 6. In October, the foundation will host for the second time a breast cancer campaign with funds going to support free mammograms for un- or under- insured women.

These two tournaments will raise funds for two ongoing projects at Metroplex. The first is to build a wellness center within the next

three years. It will house all 11 of Metroplex's free fitness classes, Driver-Moultrie said.

The hospital is also looking to purchase vein finders, which will help the lab department find patient's veins quickly. This equipment will go to the main Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, as well as the Rollins Brook Community Hospital in Lampasas.

The Metroplex Foundation was created in 1983 and is governed by a volunteer board of trustees.

Driver-Moultrie said the board's and foundation department's passion speak volumes.

"They believe in our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. I greatly appreciate them."



Coryell Memorial Healthcare System is dedicated to patient-focused care and treatment with the latest medical technology, while providing a place of healing and comfort for our patients. As a part of this commitment to bring quality healthcare close to home, Coryell Memorial has undertaken an approximately 117,000 square foot expansion and renovation project that will bring improvements to almost every part of the healthcare system. The new additions include 2 operating rooms, a 25 bed hospital wing and a 16 bed physical rehabilitation wing. Renovations include areas for pharmacy, lab, offices, and converting current hospital rooms into The Welcome Assisted Living rooms and some of the current Welcome AL rooms into Oaks Independent Living Apartments.

Coryell Memorial Renovation & Expansion Project



Expected Completion 2018

Medical Homes continue to support the community

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

To provide treatment without requiring patients to go to the main hospital at Fort Hood, U.S. Army Medical Homes offer medical care off-post in several clinics for active-duty soldiers, retirees and their families.

Army medical facilities function as family-practice clinics off post, and work in conjunction with Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

The Killeen facility serves soldiers and their family members in Killeen. Those living in Harker Heights, Belton and Salado are served by the Harker Heights clinic, and the Copperas Cove Clinic serves Cove, Kempner and Lampasas.

In 2012, the three community-based clinics received their initial National Committee for Quality Assurance certification, and are in the review process for recertification.

Each medical home includes a lab and pharmacy making it a convenient one-stop-shop for patients and families.

Darnall plans to open a fourth community medical home in south Killeen, although no date has been confirmed. It will be called Heart of Texas Medical Home.

Harker Heights is expanding its

pharmacy.

Other clinics based at Fort Hood include the Bennett Health Clinic, a Soldier-Centered Medical Home, which serves active-duty troops, the Thomas Moore Health Clinic and the Russell Collier Health Clinic.

In the past year, all three of the medical clinics, as well as other Fort Hood clinics, have expanded their pharmacy services. The pharmacies at all three medical clinics are able to provide services to their patients, and pharmacy, lab and radiology services will be available in a new After Hours Clinic, which opened last year at the Thomas Moore Health Clinic.

There are four soldier-centered medical clinics Bennett Health Clinic, Charles Thomas Moore, Monroe and Troop Medical Clinic No. 12.

Patient-Centered Medical Clinics include: Family Medicine Residency Clinic, Internal Medicine Clinic, Pediatric Clinic, Russell Collier Health Clinic which sees both active-duty troops and family members, and the newest addition to the group is the Fort Hood Medical Home. The clinic is designed to accommodate same day urgent/acute care appointments.



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Metroplex
Health System

Heart and Vascular Center

Seton continues strong presence in Central Texas

BY ROSE L. THAYER
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

With numerous community awards, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is approaching its sixth year in Bell County with the same enthusiasm that earned community trust and partnerships.

Most recently, Seton received an “A” rating from the Leapfrog Group for patient safety. Last year also saw Seton Harker Heights voted Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare and already this year, the readers of the Killeen Daily Herald voted the hospital the best in Central Texas.

More area residents are now able to access Seton and its staff of 425 associates and more than 300 physicians as it and Wellstone Health Partners now accept Scott and White Health Plan insurance products.

“This is exciting news for our hospital and the medical staff as we will now be able to serve the members of our community who have Scott and White Health Plan insurance, giving them access to the high-quality patient-centered health care provided at SMCHH and Wellstone,” said Zach Dietze, CEO at Seton Medical Center Harker Heights. “The well-being and health of our community is always at the forefront of the decisions we make, we feel confident that this decision will allow us to better serve our community.”

Seton remains a chest pain accredited center and therefore offers the newest methods and best practices in heart care to ensure that patients receive right care at the right time to reduce time to treatment during the critical stages of a heart attack.

It’s also Joint Commissions Accredited and dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of care while maintaining a high level of quality and compliance with the latest standards.

Seton Harker Heights expanded its relationship with Freedom Urgent Care. Last summer their



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is entering its sixth year of operation.

second partnership clinic opened on W.S. Young Drive in Killeen. The first opened the previous year, also in Killeen.

Seton Harker Heights also continued to take its patient care outside into the community. A new outpatient therapy program in partnership with the Armed Services YMCA at the 54,000-square-foot wellness center in Harker Heights, founded in 2016, is still providing care.

The Armed Services YMCA Wellness Center offers the community a place to exercise, relax and unwind, as well as space to participate in Seton Medical Center’s Rehabilitation program. With a whole corridor devoted to physical, occupational and speech therapy, the program’s clinic is a partnership with the ASYMCA that has already taken off.

The clinic, which is open Monday through Friday, retains a staff of five therapists under the direction of Christopher Egizio.

While Seton has always maintained a small inpatient therapy program, the hospital looks forward to expanding its clinic at the ASYMCA, 110 Mountain Lion Road, in the months and years to come, he said.

Additionally, Seton Harker Heights continues to staff providers

at the Greater Killeen Free Clinic to support the clinic’s chronic disease management program.

As Seton Medical Center Harker Heights nears its sixth year in Bell County, the hospital has seen much progress in the past years.

“One of our initial goals was to exceed our patients’ expectations for service and quality,” said Dietze. “We have successfully met this challenge as proven by our CMS Four Star Rating for both Overall Quality and Patient Satisfaction, and the hospital received a Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade of “A” this past year,” Dietze said.

“Seton in Harker Heights is committed to providing exceptional patient center care to our community across the service lines that we feel privileged to offer the community.”

In light of this, Dietze said, Seton staff have worked hard to complete disease-specific certifications and are proud of these accomplishments.

Chief Nursing Officer Pam Craig said, “We continually look for ways to meet the needs of our community. We are now chest pain accredited and have earned our Level IV trauma certification.”

Being chest pain accredited means the hospital is recognized by the American College of Cardiology

Accreditation Services as an accredited Chest Pain Center. Level IV Trauma Certification signifies that Seton Harker Heights is able to support the area through providing care to trauma patients in the Emergency Department.

All physicians practicing at Seton are board eligible or board certified.

In 2016, Seton Harker Heights launched a new outpatient therapy program in partnership with the Armed Services YMCA at the new 54,000-square-foot wellness center in Harker Heights that offers Seton Medical Center’s Rehabilitation program.

The clinic, which is open Monday through Friday, retains a staff of five therapists, with the hope of adding at least five more in the next year, rehabilitation director Ron Van Dyke said.

While Seton has always maintained a small inpatient therapy program, the hospital looks forward to expanding its clinic at the ASYMCA, 110 Mountain Lion Road, in the months and years to come, he said.

Additionally, Seton Harker Heights continues to staff providers at the Greater Killeen Free Clinic to support the clinic’s chronic disease management program.

Greater Killeen Free Clinic changes name but continues to serve Central Texas community

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

The Greater Killeen Free Clinic is now in its 24th year of providing medical services to residents of Killeen and surrounding communities in 2018 and works in partnership with the Friends in Crisis Homeless Shelter that opened more than two years ago.

The clinic serves children and adults residing in Bell, Coryell and Lampasas counties who are low income and uninsured.

The clinic's services include acute care, chronic disease treatment and education, a prescription assistance program, and diagnostic testing and specialty care by referral.

It also offers case management for its patients, and partners with Texas A&M College of Medicine Psychiatry Residency Program for its targeted behavioral health services.

"Patients needing women's health care services are referred to Bell County Public Health District's Killeen clinic, which is located four blocks from the Free Clinic," said Marlene DiLillo, the clinic's executive director.

The clinic got its start in 1994 to provide health care to people who didn't have access to affordable health care.

Since 1994, more than 65,000 patients have been treated, with the number of patients growing annually. In 2017, the clinic saw 10,426 patient visits across all of its programs, according to DiLillo. The clinic saw 6,800 patients in 2016.

The clinic also operates a small once-a-week acute care clinic in the Friends In Crisis Homeless Shelter at 412 E. Sprott St.

In 2015, the clinic launched its free monthly Lunch n' Learn wellness program as a way



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Cassandra Batiste, a certified medical assistant, checks Dominique Harris' vital signs, Jan. 29, at the Greater Killeen Free Clinic in Killeen.


for the clinic to educate the community on various health topics.

The group meets the second Thursday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in the community development room at the Killeen Arts and Activities Center, 802 N. Second St.

In March, the Greater Killeen Free Clinic changed its "doing business as" name to the Greater Killeen Community Clinic. Planning for the clinic's 25th anniversary celebration, which will be held in 2019, has also begun.

The clinic, at 718 N. Second St., sees patients on a first-come, first-serve basis for its acute care. Other clinics are by appointment.

Patients are requested to make a contribution to care based on their income. Waivers may be granted. Photo ID is required for service. For information, go to www.gkfcclinic.org or call 254-618-4211.



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• Chronic Disease Clinic
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Metroplex Health System celebrates 40 years with continued quality care to community

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

For its 40-year history, Metroplex Health System has had one mission: extending the healing ministry of Christ.

“2018 marks a year of renewal and growth for Metroplex Health System,” said Carlyle Walton, Metroplex Health System president and CEO. “Over the next year, we will be focusing on renewing our commitment to our mission, our patients and our community. We will be learning new skills that will enhance our ability to provide high-quality whole-person healthcare to all.”

Metroplex Health System consists of a 232-bed multi-campus facility, which includes Metroplex Adventist Hospital and a 60-bed Behavioral Health Center in Killeen, and the 25-bed Rollins Brook Community Hospital in Lampasas. It is a member of the Adventist Health System, a partner with Baylor Scott & White Health, and is home to more than 300 physicians offering 43 medical specialties.

In 2017, the health system served more than 50,000 patients in its emergency departments and more than 119,000 patients in total. Metroplex also welcomed 1,350 babies into the world.

RENEWAL AND GROWTH

For more than 150 years, the Adventist Health System, which includes Metroplex, has built a legacy of providing Christ-centered, compassionate, whole-person care to those who walk through their hospitals' doors and to those who live in the communities those hospitals serve. In its 40 years, Metroplex has continued that legacy by focusing on the well-being of their patients' mind, body and spirit not just the



KARIN MARKERT | HERALD

Metroplex Hospital at 2201 South Clear Creek Road, Killeen, opened in 1978.

illness or injury for which they are seeking care.

Beginning in early spring, all 800 team members of Metroplex Health System will participate in The Whole Care Experience, a new kind of orientation designed to help caregivers better meet the needs of every patient the health system serves. Metroplex team members will learn skills needed to help them renew their commitment to the health systems mission of Extend the Healing Ministry of Christ, and it will help them provide the highest quality whole-person care.

ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

In 2017, Metroplex Health System received certification as a Stage 7 hospital by HIMSS Analytics, a national healthcare data analyst. The designation recognizes Metroplex for reaching the highest level on the Electronic Medical Record Adaptation Model, which evaluates the progress and impact of these electronic records systems for hospitals. By tracking their progress in completing stages 0-7, hospitals can evaluate the use of information technology regarding patient records. Metroplex began

implementation of its electronic records process in 2006.

Metroplex also received Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers from The Joint Commission in 2016 for its compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements. The standards are based on best practices found in the Brain Attack Coalition's "Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers" (JAMA, 2000) and the "Revised and Updates Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers" (Stroke, 2011). The achievement of certification signifies that the care provided to stroke patients by Metroplex have the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes.

RECOGNITIONS

Fall 2017 marked the third consecutive year that Metroplex Adventist Hospital received an "A" grade for its Hospital Safety Score in both the spring and the fall. The Hospital Safety Score rates how well hospitals protect patients from errors, injuries and infections and is compiled under the guidance

of the nation's leading experts on patient safety and is administered by The Leapfrog Group, an independent industry watchdog.

Also in 2017, Metroplex was once again recognized as a finalist for the QUEST Award for High-Value Healthcare. Only 21 hospitals received finalist recognition for achieving top performance in any five of the six areas measured in Premier's QUEST collaborative, including cost and efficiency, evidence-based care, mortality, safety, patient and family engagement, and appropriate hospital use. The award marks the third consecutive time that Metroplex has been named a finalist.

Metroplex also received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. Metroplex also received the Mission: Lifeline's Gold-Plus award. This award recognizes that Metroplex has not only reached an achievement score of 75 percent or greater on all Mission: Lifeline Receiving Center Quality Measures but also achieved at least 75 percent on First Door to Device time under 120 minutes for STEMI transfer patients from other facilities.

Finally, both hospitals in the Metroplex Health System, Metroplex Adventist Hospital in Killeen and Rollins Brook Community Hospital in Lampasas, were nationally recognized for achievements in patient safety and quality. Metroplex was named a Top General Hospital, and Rollins Brook was named a Top Rural Hospital by The Leapfrog Group.



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Fort Hood continues improving services for soldiers, families

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

From solar energy to state-of-the-art training facilities, Fort Hood continues to progress with a variety of projects around post that serve soldiers, families, veterans and others.

In November 2017, construction began on a new mission training complex, which will consolidate the current 10 training facilities that encompass the current mission training complex that was built in the 1980s.

Maj. Gen. Doug Chalmers, the III Corps deputy commanding general for support, hosted the ceremony and said the \$63 million project will support individual through collective, simulation-driven mission command training for III Corps and Fort Hood units.

“This new venue will encompass 143,481 square feet, and this will consolidate the footprint into one central unified area and will replace seven of those smaller buildings,” Chalmers said. “That would increase the quality, capacity and capability of the mission command training as it continues to provide world-class and world-leading training.”

SOLAR

The Army’s Net Zero program to conserve energy got a big boost in June 2017 when Apex Clean Energy, a Virginia-based company, finished building the Army’s first hybrid renewable energy project consisting of a 63,000-solar panel farm on West Fort Hood and the Cotton Plains Wind project, a 21-wind turbine facility in Floyd County near Lubbock.

Locally based contractors were also instrumental in completing the project. Paul’s Electric supported the project by operating electrical equipment and American Paratus provided on-site security. Brushmasters was responsible for clearing the site and for land maintenance, while Baron Environmental Services & Technology was responsible for



HERALD | FILE

Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, speaks at a ribbon-cutting for an array of solar panels last year at Fort Hood. The Army in a deal with Apex Clean Energy is focusing on renewable energy with solar and wind power.

protecting the environment.

The goal of the project served two purposes; increase security of the installation’s energy grid and cost efficiency.

The project came at a cost of approximately \$100 million for the on-post solar farm, which is spread across 132 acres, equivalent to 100 football fields.

The solar farm will provide 15 megawatts of energy and the The Cotton Plains Wind project will generate 50 megawatts of energy. The combined solar and wind energy project will provide almost 50 percent of the post’s energy requirements.

DEPLOYMENTS

There are more than 2,900 Fort Hood soldiers currently deployed to places such as Europe, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Deployed units include the III Corps headquarters element, which is in Kuwait and

Iraq leading Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, the international coalition to defeat the Islamic State. Roughly 1,500 members of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade are deployed to Europe, Iraq and Afghanistan. Elements of the 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 1st Medical Brigade, 11th Signal Brigade, 36th Engineer

Brigade and the 89th Military Police Brigade in Kuwait and Iraq. More than 200 members of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade are in Afghanistan.

Fort Hood currently has a little more than 35,500 troops assigned to the post.



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Fort Hood troops continue to lead fight against Islamic State

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood soldiers have been instrumental in the fight against the Islamic State, with elements of III Corps headquarters leading the way.

III Corps and Fort Hood commander Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II took command of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, the international coalition to defeat ISIS, on Sept. 5, 2017.

Funk and about 350 III Corps soldiers left for a yearlong deployment in August to serve as the headquarters for more than 70 nations that are part of the task force. The coalition provides training, advice and assistance to Iraqi and Syrian forces, to include direct artillery and air strikes on enemy forces.

“There has been a tremendous increase in the confidence and will of the Iraqi Security Forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces,” Funk said during a Dec. 18, 2017, video conference from Baghdad, Iraq. “In 2015, ISIS had over 7 million people

under their evil control. Now, at almost Christmas-time 2017, about 6.8 million of those people have been liberated.”

Funk said the training provided by coalition military forces to the Iraqi army and allied Syrian forces has crippled the terrorist caliphate in the two nations, with Iraq completely free of ISIS and only small pockets of Syria still held by the Islamic State.

In early February, the U.S. began reducing the number of its troops in Iraq following Baghdad’s declaration of victory over the Islamic State.

“I can tell you that III Corps personnel who deployed in July and August to form the core of the CJTF-OIR headquarters here are unaffected,” said Col. Thomas Veale, III Corps spokesman. “We will continue the mission here in Southwest Asia. There is still work to do to ensure a lasting defeat of ISIS.”

Fort Hood has approximately 1,200 soldiers stationed in the Iraq and Kuwait areas in support of the fight against ISIS.



JOHN MILLER | U.S. ARMY

Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, III Corps and Fort Hood commander and current commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, updates members of the Central Texas community on the ongoing fight against the Islamic State during a video conference with local media Monday, Dec. 18, 2017. The commander spoke from the task force’s headquarters in Baghdad.

“The battle against Daesh has ended, and so the level of the American presence will be reduced,” said Iraqi government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi, who used the Arabic language acronym for IS, in an interview with the Associated Press on Feb. 5.

Al-Hadithi stressed at the time that the drawdown — the first since the war against IS began more than

three years ago — was still in its early stages and doesn’t mark the beginning of a complete pullout of U.S. forces.

“Continued coalition presence in Iraq will be conditions-based, proportional to the need and in coordination with the government of Iraq,” Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman, told the AP.

III Corps gets new commander, deploys to Middle East

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood’s leading headquarters unit — III Corps — departed for a yearlong deployment to the Middle East in August 2017. The corps’ deployment is to lead Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, who took command of III Corps and Fort Hood in March 2017, took charge of the task force in September 2017 and is currently overseeing the final fall of the terrorist organization.

The coalition provides training, advice and assistance to Iraqi and Syrian forces, to include direct

artillery and airstrikes on enemy forces.

Funk said the training provided by coalition military forces to the Iraqi army and allied Syrian forces has crippled the terrorist caliphate in the two nations, with Iraq completely free of ISIS and only small pockets of Syria still held by the Islamic State.

Roughly 20 of the terrorist organization’s leaders were captured or killed in December and about 70 foreign fighters were captured trying to escape from those areas still controlled by ISIS.

Maj. Gen. John C. Thomson III is currently serving as the deputy commander for operations and the home-station commander during the headquarters’ deployment. The other deputy

commander is British Maj. Gen. Douglas Chalmers, who is the deputy commander for support. Col. Todd Fox is the corps’ chief of staff and the senior enlisted adviser is Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Crosby.

III Corps oversees 23 brigades in four divisions across four installations, as well as several separate functional brigades that provide sustainment, medical, engineering, fires, civil affairs, military law enforcement and intelligence support. The command scope of III Corps includes the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, and the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. In total, III Corps is comprised of about 120,000 soldiers.



JOHN MILLER | U.S. ARMY

Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, III Corps and Fort Hood commander and current commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve.

III Corps, several brigades change leadership in 2017

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

III Corps and Fort Hood changed hands in 2017, with Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II taking command from Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland prior to deploying to the Middle East to take command of Operation Inherent Resolve. There were also a few brigade command changes in the past year.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

The largest unit at Fort Hood, the 1st Cavalry Division, welcomed Maj. Gen. Paul T. Calvert as its newest commander in October. In August 2017, the division welcomed two new deputy commanders with an official patching ceremony on Cooper Field. Brig. Gen. Matthew J. Van Wagenen took over as the deputy commander for support, Col. William D. Taylor was assigned as the deputy commander for maneuver.

FIRST ARMY DIVISION WEST

Maj. Gen. Erik C. Peterson took command of First Army's Division West on June 26. Division West is responsible for ensuring all reserve component troops are properly trained and prepared to deploy, tailoring the training to the specific mission of each unit it deploys.

3RD CAVALRY REGIMENT

Col. Jonathan Byrom became the 77th commander of the "Brave Rifles" regiment in July 2017. Byrom previously served as the operations officer for the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, and this is his second time serving with the regiment.

FORT HOOD GARRISON

Col. Henry C. Perry replaced Col. Todd M. Fox as Fort Hood's garrison commander in July.

CARL R. DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

Col. David R. Gibson replaced Col. Mark W. Thompson as commander of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center on July 7. Gibson enlisted in the Army in 1986 as an



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Col. David R. Gibson, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center incoming commander, left, receives the medical center's colors from Major Gen. Thomas R. Tempel, Jr., commanding general of the Regional Health Command-Central, as Col. Mark W. Thompson, outgoing commander, looks on during the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center change of command ceremony at Fort Hood's Sadowski Field.

infantryman. He was commissioned as an officer in 1991, and served most recently as chief of staff, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence in San Antonio.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

Col. Steven N. Carozza took command of the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" during a change of command ceremony on Fort Hood's Cooper Field in June.

HOOD MOBILIZATION BRIGADE

Col. Martin Inman took command of the Hood Mobilization Brigade during a change of command in June 2017. The brigade falls under First Army's Division West and is responsible for training reserve component units prior to deployment.

36TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

The 36th Engineer Brigade welcomed Col. James Koeppen as its newest commander during a change of command ceremony June 15.

48TH CHEMICAL BRIGADE

Col. Christopher W. Hoffman replaced Col. Christopher J. Cox as the commander of the 48th Chemical Brigade on June 23. Hoffman's previous duty involved serving as the 8th Army's director for Operational Protection in Korea for the previous year.

69TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE

Col. Curtis W. King took command of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade on June 29. King, from Central City, Kentucky, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, receiving his commission in 1996. He most recently served at the Pentagon.

11TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE

Col. David A. Thomas took command of the 11th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade during a change of command ceremony in July.

85TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE

Lt. Col. Nicholas J. Dickson, a native of Wisconsin, took command of the 85th Civil Affairs Brigade in August. Prior to taking command of the brigade, he served as the battalion commander for the Army Forces Battalion from 2014-2015 while in the Republic of Honduras. He was also the deputy commanding officer for the 85th Civil Affairs Brigade before assuming command. However, the brigade in active inactivated during a Jan. 31 ceremony at III Corps and Fort Hood Headquarters.

First Team sees sun set and rise on troops around the globe

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood's largest unit — the 1st Cavalry Division — welcomed a new commander in October 2017 as it continued to be one of the busiest and largest Army division's in the world.

Maj. Gen. Paul T. Calvert assumed command of the division from Maj. Gen. John C. Thomson III. At the same time, Command Sgt. Maj. Shane E. Pospisil took over as the division's senior enlisted advisor. The deputy commander for support is Brig. Gen. Matthew J. Van Wagenen and the deputy commander for maneuver is Col. William D. Taylor.

Calvert said it was truly an honor to take command of the division, which currently has 18,000 soldiers — approximately 2,000 of which are currently deployed.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to be with soldiers,



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Maj. Gen. Paul T. Calvert speaks last year during the 1st Cavalry Division Change of Command and Responsibility Ceremony at Fort Hood.

day in and day out," Calvert said. "It's an absolute honor — it's something you never think about. You serve because you still have a passion for soldiers, a passion for our mission and what we do for our nation, and you're willing to do whatever is asked of you. Just to have the opportunity to be a part

of this formation and be one of the members of the First Team is an honor."

On Sept. 13, troopers young and old, past and present and near and far, gathered to celebrate the 1st Cavalry Division's 96th birthday. The ceremony was held at the 1st Cavalry Division Museum

and led by former commander Thomson and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Phil Jondrow. After a graceful presentation of the saber, the traditional cake-cutting was performed by the most seasoned soldier and the youngest soldier in the division, Sgt. 1st Class David Lindemann and Pvt. Kayla Kramer, respectively.

1ST BRIGADE

The division's 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team is set to deploy approximately 3,500 soldiers to Europe this summer.

The brigade will replace the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kansas, on a regular rotation supporting Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Ironhorse Brigade will work with NATO and other regional partners, according to Col. Wilson Rutherford IV, the brigade commander.

PLEASE SEE **FIRST TEAM, PAGE 59**



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FIRST TEAM

FROM PAGE 58

“We are a trained armored brigade combat team, which is fully prepared to conduct a full range of operations in support of U.S. Army Europe,” Rutherford said. “Our professional leaders and soldiers are honored at the opportunity to contribute to this longstanding strategic alliance.”

Ironhorse Brigade spent much of November at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, preparing for this deployment. The unit returned to Fort Hood in early December.

The brigade’s top enlisted soldier is Command Sgt. Maj. Robert F. Leime.

2ND BRIGADE

The division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team returned home from a second nine-month deployment in South Korea at the end of February. The “Black Jack” Brigade, which has more than 4,000 soldiers, was the first brigade-sized unit in a rotation to support and train alongside the South Korean army in 2016.

The brigade commander, Col. Steve Adams, and brigade senior enlisted advisor Command Sgt. Maj. William Justice uncased the unit’s colors on Fort Hood’s Cooper Field late Feb. 24, signaling the unit’s official return.

3RD BRIGADE

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, marched across Cooper Field on Nov. 20 to uncased the unit’s colors just in time for the 2017 Thanksgiving holiday.

Col. John Woodward, brigade commander, and brigade senior enlisted adviser Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Ronneburg unfurled the unit colors to signify the brigade was officially home from a nine-month deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

More than 3,000 soldiers deployed to several different countries, including Kuwait and Iraq, and conducted 12 different exercises with partner nations. The brigade provided fire support and advise, train and assist support to Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against the Islamic State group.

DIVISION ARTILLERY

The Red Team welcomed its second commanding officer July 20 since the unit was reactivated in April 2015.

Col. Kelly Webster took command of the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery Brigade from Col. Patrick Gaydon during a change of command ceremony on Cooper Field. Former First Team commanding general Maj. Gen. J.T. Thomson presided over the ceremony, where Gaydon officially relinquished his command by



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Col. Phillip C. Baker, the brigade commander, from left, Chief Warrant Officer-5 Stephen Napoli and Sgt. Maj. Scott Nutter case the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade’s colors during a ceremony at Cooper Field on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017. Nearly 1,900 soldiers will deploy to Europe in October.

handing over the unit guidon and Webster took over by receiving the guidon from Thomson as a symbol of his assumption.

The unit’s top enlisted soldier is Command Sgt. Maj. Phong Tran.

AIR CAV

The division’s 1st Air Cavalry Brigade continues to be the division’s air power, providing attack and transport helicopters and other aircraft.

The brigade held a colors-casing ceremony signaling the unit’s deployment to Europe at Cooper Field in early October 2017.

About 1,900 soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade replaced the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade in Germany in mid-October for a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, as part of the United States continued commitment to peace, security and stability in Europe.

“In front of you are four battalions that are going to Europe to deter aggression and to continue to provide the strength to our allied partners,” said Col. Phillip C. Baker, the brigade commander. “Our mission is to provide security and prevention of conflict.”

The brigade will train with its NATO allies and partner nations in multinational exercises and will

perform medical transport, provide support and aviation operations throughout Europe to improve interoperability and strengthen relationships with allies and partner nations.

An additional 500 soldiers with the brigade’s 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment deployed to the Middle East in February for approximately five months.

The brigade’s senior enlisted advisor is Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Nutter.

SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade are currently deployed in all current theaters, to include the Middle East and Africa.

In 2006, the brigade established its operations at Fort Hood under the 13th Sustainment Command, and had returned from a deployment to Afghanistan earlier in 2015. In June 2015, the brigade became part of the division.

The brigade, known as the “Wagonmasters,” is led by Col. Steven N. Carozza and Command Sgt. Maj. Janet F. Thomas.

The Sustainment Brigade, along with the division’s headquarters element, returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in the summer of 2017.



JEROMIAH LIZAMA

First Cavalry Division’s 2nd Brigade is welcomed home from deployment by friends and family Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

3rd Cavalry Regiment busy training, giving back to community

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment “Brave Rifles” continues to train to ensure readiness to deploy to any clime and place.

The Brave Rifles are commanded by Col. Jonathan Byrom and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan D. Barker is the top enlisted soldier in the regiment.

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, originally named the “Regiment of Mounted Rifleman,” was authorized by Congress in 1846 and was stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and celebrated 171 years of continuous service in May 2017.

The unit was equipped with horse-mounted rifleman armed with percussion rifles to provide greater range and accuracy. The regiment’s original purpose was to establish military outposts along the route to the Oregon Territory, but the onset of the Mexican War in 1847 diverted them. After the war, the regiment finished its 2,000 mile journey to the Oregon Territory.

On a breezy spring morning last April, nearly 40 soldiers and their families from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment gathered with gloves on and trash bags in hand to begin their work as part of the Adopt-A-Highway’s Texas Trash-Off. The squadron’s adopted highway consists of an approximately two-mile area off FM 116 near Elijah Road in Copperas Cove.

Spc. Melissa Miller, a combat medic, coordinated the event. Miller, also the squadron’s Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers representative, spent several months ensuring the event would be a success. She credits the BOSS program for getting her interested in volunteer work in the local community.

In May, five soldiers dressed in historic uniforms marched past seven cavalry yellow guidons fluttering in the wind during a wreath ceremony held in front of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Soldiers with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment aim at targets while wearing gas masks during a troop level combined arms live-fire lanes exercise at Fort Hood on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Memorial. The 2017 memorial honored Sgt. Douglas Riney, of Fairview, Illinois, who was killed during an attack in Kabul on Oct. 19, 2016, and all of the fallen heroes of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Then-commander Col. Kevin D. Admiral and Barker placed a wreath on the memorial and unveiled a newly installed stone on the memorial wall in honor of Riney.

“We will not forget Sgt. Riney, nor his fellow troopers who now rest on Fiddlers’ Green,” said Admiral. “But, we have a duty beyond memory and honoring. We have a duty to live our lives in a way that upholds the ideals of which these men and women gave their lives.”

The wreath ceremony was one of many events held during Brave Rifles Week, a weeklong celebration of the regiment’s 171-year history and traditions.

NEW SIDE ARMS

In January, officers and senior noncommissioned officers from the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop and the Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, fired the M17 Modular Handgun System for the first time during a weapons qualification range.

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment received the new side arms at the beginning of January, making it the first unit on Fort Hood to receive the Army’s upgraded pistol. The M17 is replacing the Army’s current M9 pistol after 30 years and is a variant of Sig Sauer’s publicly-available P320 pistol.

The regiment finished up a National Training Center decisive action rotation at Fort Irwin, California, this month. Leading up to the NTC rotation, the regiment was in the field from September through December 2017, conducting

gunnery from the crew level all the way through troop combined arms live fire exercises. Over the 2017 summer, the regiment supported Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as the cadets trained to become the future leaders of the Army. In March of 2017, the Regiment was moved back under III Corps as a direct supporting unit.



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First Army Division West readies the Reserve forces for deployment

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Division West is a training division assigned to the First Army and headquartered at Fort Hood. The unit has four subordinate training support brigades based at Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, and Fort Lewis, Washington.

The unit is currently under the command of Maj. Gen. Erik C. Peterson and the senior enlisted adviser is Command Sgt. Maj. John P. McDwyer.

With more than 3,000 assigned soldiers and civilians, Division West is charged with the training and readiness of National Guard and Reserve units as they prepare to deploy to various operations around the world.

As National Guard and Reserve units are ordered to deploy, they begin a mobilization process that eventually brings them to one of the mobilization sites located at either Fort Hood or Fort Bliss. Division West, in partnership with the garrison command and multiple partners across the installations, ensures that deploying National Guard and Reserve units have met all of the requirements for deployment.

These requirements range from weapons qualification and medical readiness to specialty equipment training. Prior to departing, Division West personnel conduct a final training exercise that stresses a unit's ability to conduct operations as if they were deployed.

The location at Fort Hood is responsible for the mobilization activities for all National Guard and Reserve aviation, medical, sustainment and various specialty units such as civil affairs and public affairs.

The Division West soldiers stay busy planning and conducting training events designed to give units an idea of the types of situations they may deal with while deployed.

Mobilization support exercises



STAFF SGT. IAN KUMMER | ARMY

Army National Guard Soldiers in the 29th Infantry Division in the human resources section man their work stations during a Mission Rehearsal Exercise with First Army's Division West at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2016. The 29th Infantry Division worked with First Army observer controller/trainers to be fully prepared for an upcoming deployment to the Middle East.



HERALD | FILE

Maj. Gen. Erik C. Peterson, left, incoming commander of First Army Division West at Fort Hood, receives the division guidon from Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, First Army commander during a change-of-command ceremony June 26, 2017, at Cameron Field.

are a last check of a unit and their preparations before they are deployed around the world. Unit personnel tailor the training they provide to the specific type of unit and deployment locations. On any given week, personnel will conduct exercises for units heading to Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Horn of Africa, Europe and Guantanamo Bay.

In addition to mobilization support, Division West soldiers

also supported several readiness exercises that were conducted on Fort Hood for National Guard and Reserve brigades.

These readiness exercises, known as Warfighters and Combat Support Training Exercises, differ slightly from mobilization exercises because readiness exercises provide a measure of where a unit is in a five-year training and readiness cycle.

Additionally, the soldiers assisted with exercises conducted

at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The future looks bright for the soldiers and civilians of Division West. They are working to improve mobilization training and support by making contact with deploying units earlier in the mobilization process.

By making contact earlier, they can establish a working relationship that will help to develop the most relevant and realistic training possible for deploying units and they can work more closely with the deploying units to identify training shortfalls and remedies.

They are also innovating exercise scenarios to incorporate new threats and challenges, including cyber threats, humanitarian assistance and security assistance training.

Division West, along with their installation and community partners, will continue to build on their reputation of providing the best, highest-quality training and mobilization experience possible for units that come to Fort Hood on their way to deployment.

Operational Test Command welcomes new civilian leadership, executes nearly 60 tests

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The U.S. Army Operational Test Command (USAOTC), the Army's only independent operational tester, executed 59 operational tests at test sites both in and out of the U.S. last year.

Composed of eight test directorates, staff directorates and special staff from Fort Hood, as well as Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The command contributes to Army readiness by testing equipment, systems and technology in realistic operational environments using soldiers to determine whether equipment systems are effective, suitable and survivable on the battlefield.

The command participated in the Network Integration Evaluation at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., and Fort Bliss while partnered with a team consisting of Army Test and Evaluation Command, Joint Modernization Command and System of Systems Integration. All of the equipment tested during the evaluation was part of a coordinated and controlled realistic operational environment scenario by over 2,000 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Though testing carried on as usual last year, major changes occurred in some of the command's leadership positions.

USAOTC commander John C. Ulrich was promoted to brigadier general June 23 during ceremonies at the unit's headquarters on West Fort Hood.

Operational Test Command bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Schmidt on Aug. 4 as Command Sgt. Maj. Mario O. Terenas stepped up



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Schmidt, Operational Test Command outgoing command Sergeant Major, from left, Col. John Ulrich, commander of the Operational Test Command, and Mario O. Terenas, incoming command Sergeant Major, salute during the Operational Test Command Change of Responsibility last year at Fort Hood.

to take the reigns as standard bearer. Terenas arrived after serving as Commandant for Eighth U.S. Army's Wightman Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Camp Jackson, South Korea.

Schmidt took over as the next Command Sergeant Major of Installation Management Command — Pacific Region, headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

On Dec. 15, Harker Heights resident John W. Diem was promoted into the Senior Executive Service as USAOTC's eighth civilian executive director. He is

Fort Hood's only civilian, one-star general equivalent, and one of 261 Army Senior Executives.

The unit also honored two of its veterans last year as the newest members of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command's Operational Testers' Hall of Fame. During the 24th annual event Sept. 22, Michael B. Nott of Harker Heights became the 38th Hall of Fame inductee and Gayle S. Shull of Belton entered the hall as the program's 39th inductee. Nott retired in 1992 as an Army officer after 24 years, then served another 21 years as a Department of the Army Civilian. Shull served in

support of operational testing for more than 39 years. USAOTC also continued the footing already laid for III Corps and Fort Hood's Adopt-a-School program with its partner, Florence Independent School District. Back-and-forth discussion between the two resulted in events like flag etiquette training for fourth- and fifth-graders; a first-ever "Make A Difference Day" event at the Florence High School, and teaming up with the Fort Hood Army Substance Abuse Program during Red Ribbon Week to show middle school students how alcohol and drugs can affect their bodies, along with troubles they may find with the law.

USAOTC strengthened its partnerships and increased collaboration with local universities during 2017. Texas A&M-Central Texas began supporting USAOTC with student interns and, in conjunction with the main campus at College Station, faculty and technical staff assistance with alternative power and advanced computation and data visualization projects. USAOTC also continued its long-standing efforts with multiple University of Texas-Austin research centers to develop advanced test instrumentation for operational testing and conduct systems engineering, research and analysis.

During 2018, OTC will conduct multiple tests, to include systems such as the Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle DRAGOON 30mm Upgrade; Stryker Common Remotely Operated Weapon System Javelin; Joint Light Tactical Vehicle; Army Tactical Missile System; Joint Air-to-Ground Missile; Rucksack Portable Unmanned Aircraft System; Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle; and Distributed Common Ground System.

Mounted Warrior Museum gets closer to breaking ground this year

BY DAVID A. BRYANT AND JACOB BROOKS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Officials have raised roughly \$29 million toward a goal of \$37 million needed to build a new, state-of-the-art museum near Fort Hood's main gate.

Not all of the \$29 million is in the form of cash or pledges. About \$10 million is the value of the 65 acres where the proposed museum will sit, near the Fort Hood visitors center overlooking Interstate 14 and U.S. Highway 190 Business.

Fort Hood is allowing the museum to be built on Army property, and the Army will retain ownership and management of the museum once it opens, said Bob Crouch, vice president of the National Mounted Warfare Foundation, the nonprofit tasked with raising the funds to build the Mounted Warrior Museum.

In addition to memorializing the many units and soldiers who at one time called Fort Hood home, the museum also will be a go-to destination for visitors and could attract thousands of others annually to the Killeen-Fort Hood area, foundation officials said.

Crouch said attendance at the 42,000-square-foot museum is expected to be 265,000 visitors in the first year, including 195,000 visitors from outside the local area.

The museum is also expected to bring in \$5 million per year to the local economy, said retired Lt. Gen. Paul "Butch" Funk, the foundation's president and CEO.

"Our goal is to break ground on the museum by the end of 2018," Funk said. "We have about 80 percent of the funding, thanks to several generous gifts received over the past several months."

Phase I of the Museum will include 31,000 square feet of interactive and immersive exhibits, children's discovery areas, multipurpose conference/classrooms, simulation activities, administrative spaces, military vehicle displays, a gift shop, and a themed playground on the museum grounds.

"The design is efficient and allows for 75 percent of the square feet to be dedicated to telling the story," he said. "Most museums are lucky to have 40 percent of their space dedicated to exhibits and are considered to be doing well if they



JOHN MILLER | U.S. ARMY

The planned Mounted Warrior Museum is seen in the artist's rendering.

have 50 percent."

The top expenses in the \$37 million capital campaign goal include \$13.2 million needed for the museum building, \$10 million for the land and \$10.4 for exhibits, Crouch said.

"Our architect, Huckabee Inc., has completed 100 percent of the Schematic Design phase and 50 percent of the Design Development phase of the overall architectural design, so we feel pretty confident with the current cost estimates for the project," he said. "Of course, we're hoping to be able to take advantage of design and construction efficiencies to come in under our projected budget once construction begins."

Crouch said the foundation's annual operating budget is currently \$299,450. Most of that stems from \$253,600 in the annual salaries of the three full-time foundation employees and three development consultants. Rent and other bills for the foundation total \$45,850, according to Crouch.

The museum is still pending acceptance by the Secretary of the Army, who is the only one who can approve the Center for Military History taking over the museum, Crouch said.

To donate or find out more information about the National Mounted Warrior Museum, go to nmwfoundation.org.

New restaurants coming to post; money scheduled for new barracks

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

A new Popeye's and Burger King are under construction at Fort Hood.

The restaurants will be built near the old Fort Hood main post exchange on Clear Creek Road. Aarene Contracting of Alpharetta, Georgia, is handling the construction. The project is slated for completion in April.

The two franchises will share one building and each will have its own drive-thru, according to Trey Williams, Army and Air Force Exchange Service marketing manager.

Williams said Fort Hood's other Popeye's location, near the 1st Cavalry Division's headquarters,

is popular, so making another available makes sense. As for the Burger King, when the old post exchange closed, so did the Burger King inside that facility. Replacing it with the new structure will restore that option.

Fort Hood and its soldiers will also see a direct impact from the nearly \$700 billion National Defense Authorization Act signed into law in December 2017 by President Donald Trump.

U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, whose district includes Fort Hood, said about \$70 million of authorized funding for the military is earmarked for the post. Of that amount, \$37 million will be used to finish renovating the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters building. The rest is set for projects

such as building new motor pools capable of handling heavy military vehicles, including the M1 Abrams tank.

"On the (military construction) side of things, we've got a lot of money to hopefully pass out to fix the barracks," Carter said. "The sergeant major of the Army was asked that if he had only one project he'd like to see done, what would it be? He said to fix the barracks, which is a good thing. We have too many old and outdated barracks our soldiers are living in."

The post also hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to present the newly-remodeled Robert Gray Army Airfield radar approach control center in September 2017.

The radar control tower controls

air space within a 60-mile radius of Fort Hood from the surface to 12,000 feet. In order to monitor and secure this environment, the facility interfaces with other federal aviation administration air route traffic control centers located across the state in Houston, Waco and Austin.

The collaboration of these FAA centers enables over 10,000 flights each year with safe passage to Dallas, Houston and Atlanta.

This facility is the only one authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to simultaneously operate unmanned aerial systems and commercial air traffic, directly upgrading Fort Hood training opportunities.

Defense Alliance continues to build relationships among Fort Hood and the community

BY ROSEL THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Heart of Texas Defense Alliance is a regional nonprofit organization that promotes the importance and sustainability of Fort Hood and all defense-related industries, organizations and institutions in the Central Texas area. It was organized in 2003 by seven cities and three counties surrounding Fort Hood.

The alliance supports the efforts of many organizations in the region, providing subject matter expertise and participation in numerous engagements, resulting in significant opportunities or accomplishments for the region.

The alliance's efforts are always regionally focused, although some efforts may directly impact one city or county more than others as part of this regional approach.

During 2017, it continued support to multiple regional efforts. Internally, the organization welcomed new leadership. Retired Col. Keith Sledd took over as executive director in August from retired Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox.

"It is personally rewarding for me because it allows me to continue to serve soldiers and their families as well as the regional community," Sledd said. "Working through (the alliance), I have opportunities to assist and contribute to Fort Hood, the Central Texas region, and the soldiers and their families."

The following are some of the key highlights from the alliance's past year:

The alliance facilitated a \$3.1 million grant application for a Texas Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant to install security instrumentation for the Robert Gray Army Airfield/Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport. The total project improves the military value

of the installation, enhances security for over \$2.1 billion of aircraft and infrastructure, and simultaneously returns over 5,500 annual soldier training days to Fort Hood through reduced additional duty requirements. The alliance worked closely with its regional city and county partners and Fort Hood leadership to identify a worthy project, recruit Bell County as a grant sponsor, and gain commitments for the local cost share portion of the project. The result of these efforts landed the project as top priority among the 13 statewide projects.

The alliance supported implementation of the 2016 Fort Hood Joint Land Use completed in 2016. It now works closely with the program manager and regional cities and counties to implement the recommendations from the study, to include hosting bi-monthly committee meetings to review implementation issues. One key milestone in 2017 is the signing of a Joint Use Agreement between Fort Hood and the Central Texas Council of Governments that establishes roles and responsibilities for supporting compatible land use between Fort Hood and neighboring cities and counties with a goal of sustaining military training capabilities while preventing and mitigating impacts of incompatible development.

The alliance engaged regional and local entities to highlight the risks to military aviation training capabilities presented by potential wind energy projects in Fort Hood aviation training areas. It engaged with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to ensure Fort Hood's consideration as part of Texas legislation that prohibits tax abatements for wind energy projects near military aviation facilities in order to maintain military aviation training

capability. The alliance also coordinated meetings with Fort Hood and wind energy project leaders to identify issues and develop mitigation strategies to prevent negative impacts to military aviation operations and training.

Throughout the year, the alliance engaged and provided information to both national and state leadership and their respective staffs to address challenges and provide information on Fort Hood and Central Texas regional defense issues.

At the national level this includes engagements with U.S. House and Senate members and their respective staff as well as Department of Defense and Department of the Army officials in support of Fort Hood and the Central Texas Region. At the state level, engagements included regional members and staff of the Texas House and Senate as well as the Texas Military Preparedness Commission in the governor's office and organizations such as the Texas Mayors of Military Communities.

No matter the individual or organization, the goal was always to provide insight on and gain support for defense-related challenges and information for the Central Texas region as well as promote and enhance the military value of Fort Hood.

The alliance continues to support the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition's efforts to expand the Interstate 14 corridor, which it said improves Fort Hood's military value by enhancing deployability and providing economic development and growth along the interstate's corridor.

The alliance continues to highlight the importance of Fort Hood to national, regional, state and local entities. Although Fort



DAVID A. BRYANT | HERALD

Retired Col. Keith Sledd took over as the new executive director for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance on Aug. 1. The alliance promotes the sustainability and importance of Fort Hood and the defense industry within the Fort Hood region.

Hood's population has fluctuated along with the Army's end strength since 2001, Fort Hood remains critical to the nation's defense, serving as home to 30 percent of the active-duty Army's armored brigade combat teams and 17 percent of the Stryker brigade combat teams, along with other enabler brigades providing sustainment, communications, engineer, military police, intelligence, air defense, and other critical capabilities.

Looking forward, the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance will continue its efforts to support Fort Hood, its regional cities and county partners, defense-related industries, organizations, and institutions in the region.

"We will do this by continuing to emphasize the importance of Fort Hood to our nation, Texas, and the Central Texas region and support for regional projects that benefit all," Sledd said.

The Exchange and commissaries offer shopping, dining and more to military families

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Fort Hood community has many great shopping options to them through the Army and Air Force Exchange Services and the Defense Commissary Agency. Both agencies strive to provide quality customer service for grocery, dining and retail to service members, retirees and their families.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES), The Exchange, provides goods and services to military personnel and family members. The Exchange stores are similar to department stores. It also partners with many popular brands to bring them onto Fort Hood. It operates on funds generated through sales of merchandise and services, not tax dollars.

The TJ Mills Starbucks is the first to boast a drive-thru on an Army installation. Also new to TJ Mills Boulevard is a Qdoba Mexican Eats inside the AAFES Food Court.

Customers down on Clear Creek Road shouldn't worry. They too can get a caffeine fix - from the new Starbucks inside the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, which also includes a retail store and barber shop. Down the street, a two-in-one restaurant of Burger King and Popeye's is under construction.

The Exchange offers customers a line of credit through the Military Star Card, which is accepted in both Warrior Way and Clear Creek Commissaries, along with select Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities such as the Bowling Alley, Information, Tickets and Tours and the Child Development Center.

Other staples of AAFES include the Clear Creek Shopping Center, opened Oct. 1, 2015, featuring clothing, shoes, cosmetics, jewelry, hardware, books and magazines, outdoor living, toys and a variety of specialty stores and restaurants.

To use these facilities, an individual must present a military ID or military dependent ID when paying for goods and services, except at restaurants. All post visitors are authorized to dine at all Fort Hood exchange facilities. Post exchanges are tax-exempt and offer electronics, clothing, home furnishings, appliances and food and alcohol.

COMMISSARIES

Located on opposite ends of the sprawling installation, these two grocery stores operate as a military benefit through the government. Known as commissaries, each store sells items customers would expect to find at any grocery store, but at a competitive price.

In the past year, the two Fort Hood commissaries have listened to customers' requests and added new items to meet demand. Both the Clear Creek and Warrior Way commissaries began selling three store brand options available in a variety of goods, said Wanda Dotson, store director at Clear Creek, located on the road of the same name. Just like H-E-B sells Hill Country Fare and Walmart offers Great Value, the commissaries have their own discounted brands for customers looking to save by not purchasing national brand name products.

Freedom's Choice brand includes packaged foods and bottled water, Top Care brand includes health, beauty and personal care products and Home Base brand carries nonfood paper products.

"People are definitely buying it," Dotson said. The store brand move



HERALD | FILE

Staff Sgt. Jason Bretado poses for a selfie with entertainer Chad Prather during a grand opening for the garden center at the Clear Creek Main Exchange at Fort Hood last April.

came after a Defense Commissary Agency survey asking customer what changes they'd like to see in stores. About 60 percent asked for store brands, Dotson said. At the Warrior Way commissary, Warrior Way and 10th Street, store director Andrea Kirby said she's increased her club pack selection to include everything from paper products to detergents to foods and coffee.

Kirby said the Warrior Way store takes pride in giving back to the local community. Last year, it donated about 50,000 pounds of food to local food banks.

"I'm a retired spouse as well so I definitely enjoy giving back to the community and to the military," she said. "The commissary is like a mom-and-pop store. When you come in, you're like family."

Commissary sidewalk sales are one of the busiest times for the

stores. The Warrior Way store will hold its sale April 28 through May 1 and the Clear Creek event will be May 1-4.

A military ID card or a dependent card is required to shop in the commissaries, which offer a variety of services, including an ATM, bakery, deli, fresh sandwiches to go, party cakes, plants and rotisserie chicken. Fresh produce, lean meats and much more are available at a low cost. Deli trays and fruit baskets are available upon request. The stores accept take debit and credit cards, cash and the Lone Star card for SNAP food benefits and Woman, Infants and Children program benefits.











Both commissaries are closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Check the store page under the Locations tab on www.commissaries.com for other holiday hours.

Fort Hood troops deployed around the world



SOURCE | FORT HOOD POPULATION CARD AND FACT SHEET

Graphic Reporting: David A. Bryant, Herald Map: Jonathan Tubbs. Current as of March 20, 2018.

UNIT	STATIONED	DEPLOYED	UNIT	STATIONED	DEPLOYED
 1st Air Cavalry Brigade 1st Cavalry Division	Germany, Europe	1,000	 11th Signal Brigade	Iraq/Kuwait	268
 2nd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division	South Korea	4,293	 36th Engineer Brigade	Iraq/Kuwait	238
 III Corp	Iraq/Kuwait	241	 89th MP Brigade	Iraq/Kuwait	377
 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command	Iraq/Kuwait	18	 504th Military Intelligence Brigade	Afghanistan	214
 1st Medical Brigade	Iraq/Kuwait	57	 Military Assigned	Fort Hood	35,406
				<i>Including about 6,700 deployed.</i>	



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KISD requesting \$426 million for expansion, renovation

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Killeen Independent School District embarked on a major project in the last quarter of 2017, developing projects and costs for a bond issue that will be presented for a vote on the May 5 ballot.

The request for \$426 million in property owners' tax dollars will be divided into two ballot propositions – \$235 million and \$191 million. The projects included in the bond issue are construction of a new high school and new elementary school, both of which should open for the 2022-2023 school year, renovations to bring older schools into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and increased security in and around the buildings, as well as consolidations of some older campuses into new buildings, and renovations to Killeen High School and Clifton Park Elementary School.

The bond issue was driven, in part, by current overcrowding in the district's schools. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year, the 26th largest school district in Texas, is expected to be nearly 45,000 students, a new record high, according to KISD officials.

Three of KISD's four traditional high schools are already over capacity, officials said, and the school district holds classes in 290 portable classrooms every day because the permanent buildings are crowded and over capacity at elementary, middle and high school levels.

This will be the first school construction bond election for Killeen ISD in 16 years. Since the last bond, KISD has grown by nearly 14,000 students, nearly the size of the entire Waco school district, without asking voters for a new bond program.

"The bond program would replace up to 60 of 69 middle school and up to 50 of 59 high school portable classrooms with newly constructed, permanent classrooms," said Terry Abbott,



GABE WOLF | HERALD

The Killeen school board discusses a bond issue that would bring \$426 million worth of improvements to the school district.

KISD chief communications officer.

A bond steering committee, comprised of parents and community members, spent more than a month studying the facilities needs of the district and determining priority projects before recommending to the school board on Dec. 12 that the bond program be placed on the ballot for voter approval.

The community steering committee's work came after years of public discussion by KISD leaders about a possible bond program, and detailed facilities and academic planning that took place over the past several years.

If voters approve the bonds, the property taxes for the average home in the district valued at \$150,000 with a homestead exemption would increase approximately \$190 per year.

"With the tax increase, KISD's tax rate would still be far lower than that of almost every other school district in the central Texas area and lower than that of similar sized school districts around the state," Abbott said.

Property owners age 65 and older would see no tax rate increase at all as a result of the bond issue, because property tax rates for those senior citizens are frozen at their current levels.

There are other construction

projects in the works for the Killeen school district. These items are included in the district's Strategic Facility Plan and will be funded from the existing district budget.

The 14th middle school being built on Warriors Path in Harker Heights at an estimated cost of \$54 million is scheduled to open for the 2020-2021 school year.

The 35th elementary school in the district is slated for construction on Morganite Lane in Killeen. The building will cost approximately \$37 million and should be complete in time to open in the fall of 2019.

An expansion of the agricultural science barn at the Killeen Career Center should be done by fall of 2018. A Career Center expansion is also in the planning stages, with the cost yet to be determined.

"The Strategic Facility Plan is a living document, and we will continue to revisit it going forward and continually review our facilities needs," Abbott said.

Other initiatives will take KISD to the cutting edge of technology. The Early College High School will have its first graduating class in 2019, with a total of 1,200 students enrolled in the program providing an associate degree and high school diploma in partnership with Central Texas College.

A middle school STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – program opened at Roy J. Smith Middle School for the 2017-2018 academic year. The STEM program will expand to all four KISD high schools for the 2018-2019 school year, also in partnership with CTC.

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KISD superintendent enjoys serving students, staff, community



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Killeen Independent School District Superintendent John Craft discusses a bond issue with the school board that would bring \$426 million worth of improvements to the school district during a workshop at the district headquarters.

BY JULIE A. FERRARO

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

John Craft, superintendent of the Killeen Independent School District, has been working in education since 1999.

He started as a physical education teacher and coach in the Carroll Independent School District, taught biology, then moved into administration.

He served as superintendent of the Hamilton Independent School District prior to joining KISD in 2012 as deputy superintendent. He took over as KISD superintendent in 2015.

“I continue to enjoy serving our students, our staff and community in an effort to help create opportunities for individuals’ dreams to become reality,” Craft said. “Seeing students achieve as a result of teamwork and dedication makes the job all worth the hard work and sacrifices.”

Craft studied at the University of North Texas, where he earned both a bachelor of science and master’s degree in educational administration. He received his doctoral degree in educational administration from Tarleton State University in 2010.

He has a sense of humor, as

when he lists one of his greatest challenges, “I struggle with chocolate.”

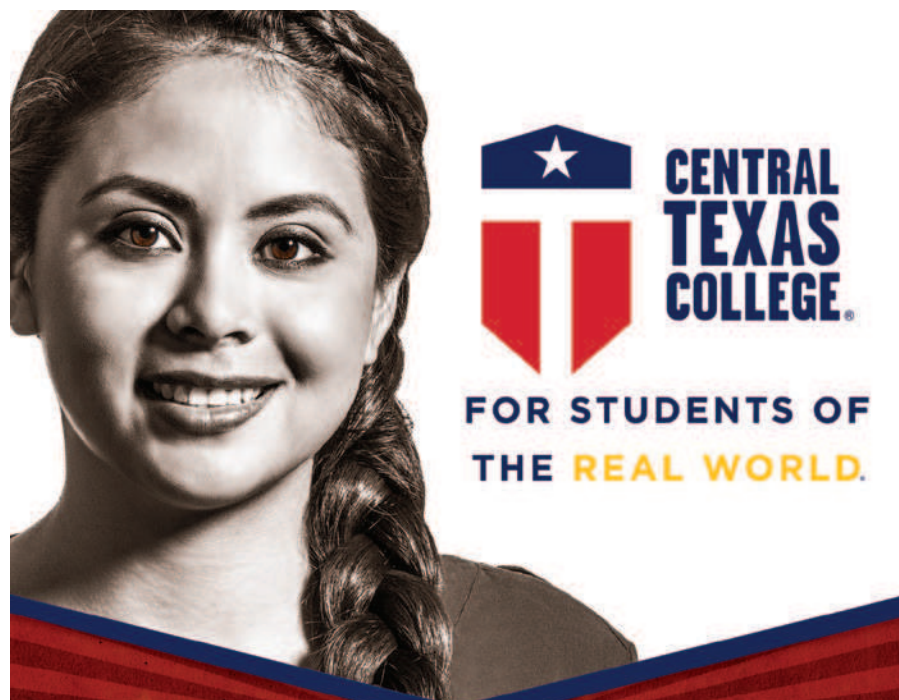
On a professional level, Craft feels a challenge in “staying ahead of the increasingly complex and evolving dynamics of today’s society and then strategically designing educational support systems to meet the demands of the future workforce.”

District-wide, Craft acknowledges, “Managing continued growth remains one of our greatest challenges. We must maintain the foresight to adapt to change and steadfast in the pursuit of our vision.”

His concern about the continuing growth of the student population, and overcrowding in district schools — especially the high schools — prompted him to spearhead the \$426 million bond issue process which will be voted on during the municipal elections on May 5.

Craft sees the students and staff of KISD as the district’s best assets.

“We have a great team of supportive, hard-working and caring individuals who work tirelessly to provide the very best for our students.”



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Texas A&M-Central Texas sees record number graduates; campus further develops

BY MATT PAYNE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Founded in 2009, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has come a long way in just eight years.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is moving closer to realizing its 30-year plan, carried out with the construction of more buildings on campus.

The university also reached several other milestone achievements and has more on the horizon.

The university is on track to complete construction on Heritage Hall, a \$36 million, 60,000 square foot third multi-use building, by August.

Heritage Hall will be the home of a new bachelor's degree coming to the school: Exercise Physiology and Human Performance. The degree will be a bachelor's of science.

Heritage, which includes an exercise lab, is where said students of this new program will study, said university spokeswoman Karen Clos.

The new building will also house offices for professors from the Arts and Science college, who teach subjects that include math, English, history, sociology and biology. The ROTC department, computer classrooms and a library archive will also be included in Heritage Hall.

Clos said architects originally designed A&M-Central Texas in a way that would allow for future buildings to be constructed alongside each other in a uniform, circular fashion. Heritage Hall will connect Founders and Warrior halls.

"If I could describe Heritage Hall, I would call it very dramatic," Clos said.

U.S. News & World Report also ranked four graduate programs among its annual Top 100 Online Programs list.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Heritage Hall, a third building at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, is set to open in August.

Two programs were in the Top 100. The Master of Criminal Justice program ranked 28th, and the Master of Management and Leadership program ranked 95th. The Master of Business Administration program ranked 108th and the Master of Education program ranked 196th.

"Thousands of colleges and universities across the country vie for a place in this ranking," Clos said. "And although we are less than 10 years old as a university, we are demonstrating our competitive abilities where it matters: the strength of our academic programs."

A&M - Central Texas received the Bronze Designation for the ALL IN Democracy Challenge for increasing student voting rates on campus for the 2016 election. The only other universities in Texas to receive this designation were the University of Texas at Austin

and the University of Texas at Arlington.

A&M-Central Texas Research and Economic Development Office purchased a portable scanning electron microscope. The purchase of the microscope inspires the interest of Central Texas students in STEM fields, Clos said.

The graduating class in December 2017, 366 graduates, was

the largest in school history for any single commencement.

As with many other schools in the Killeen area, A&M-Central Texas had a large presence of military-connected students.

Out of the December 2017 class, 50 percent were military affiliated. There were 9.6 percent active duty students, as well as veterans making up 29 percent.



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DAILY HERALD
Better than ever!

CCISD superintendent sees job as a privilege

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

There's something to be said for loving your job.

Copperas Cove Independent School District Superintendent Joe Burns has been in his current job since 2012, and he sees it as a privilege.

"The best part of my job is interacting with our students and staff. CCISD is blessed to serve great students and families," Burns said. "We also have an exceptional staff who work diligently to meet the educational needs of the students we serve."

Burns comes from a background rich in education. After earning a bachelor degree in biology, he continued onto graduate school, receiving both a masters degree and doctoral degree in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University.

He has taught in the classroom, and served as a school principal.

Having been with CCISD for six years, Burns believes, "The greatest challenge before us is

to make sure every student has the opportunity to realize his full potential."

To that end, Burns has stepped up. "My responsibility is to maintain the focus on student success and creating meaningful learning opportunities for every student on every campus in every program. Our parents and community expect no less."

The district faces other challenges, as well. Burns sees one of those being planning and preparing for a new normal when it comes to finances. "This change arises from a dramatic reduction in federal funding known as Impact Aid. We have a flight plan and we are adjusting our financial footprint each year to match expenditures with resources."

Another challenge Burns recognizes involves state education standards. Students earning career and technical certifications, dual credits for simultaneous high school and college classes, or who participate in early college programs receive the accolades they deserve. "Few, if any, of



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Joe Burns, Copperas Cove Independent School District superintendent, speaks Monday, Jan. 16, 2017, during the Killeen Branch NAACP Martin Luther King Jr. program at Marion J. and Alice W. Douse Community Center in Killeen. The theme of the event was "The Power of a Dream: The Legacy Continues."

these activities are reflected in the current accountability standards," Burns said.

Still, Burns sees the people of Copperas Cove as a true asset.

"Our community is phenomenal when it comes to supporting

CCISD students," he said. "They serve on stakeholder support groups, volunteer to mentor our young people, attend athletic competitions, and they are extremely generous with their resources and time."

Copperas Cove ISD seeing enrollment increases

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

While enrollments in all school districts fluctuate, districts near military bases can increase and decrease more than others.

At the end of January, Copperas Cove Independent School District had an enrollment of 8,132 students, according to Rick Kirkpatrick, deputy superintendent of operations and support services. "The district peaked this year at 8,184 students."

Kirkpatrick added, "The district has grown by approximately 75 students per year for the last three years."

He anticipates an additional uptick in enrollment for CCISD due to approximately 1,100 new homes will be constructed over the next several years.

A number of projects are underway in the Copperas Cove school district. The largest is the construction of a new transportation facility off of Summers Road, Kirkpatrick said.

"Our current facility is situated in a neighborhood and the flow of buses through there tend to cause congestion," he said "In addition, the site is much too small for our current fleet, causing the district to park buses in the adjacent alley."

The new transportation facility

will have plenty of parking for the district's entire fleet and room for future expansion, should it be needed.

The second project in the district is the renovation of the original Copperas Cove State Bank building into administrative offices.

"Currently, the district's administration is spaced out over three different buildings, some without adequate restroom facilities," Kirkpatrick said.

The renovated facility will bring all of the CCISD administration under one roof and provide much-needed training facilities for the district.

Innovations are part of CCISD's curriculum projects, as well.

CCISD has a partnership with Central Texas College in Killeen to allow current high school students to attend CTC to earn college credits, according to Kirkpatrick.

"This is very beneficial to students as they have the opportunity to experience a true college course. It also benefits the district by reducing the number of students on the high school campus at any one time."

As the district's student population continues to grow, that benefit will be very important to maintaining classroom teacher-to-student ratios and providing the best education possible to all students.

Mary Hardin-Baylor builds on facilities and programs

BY MATT PAYNE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor enjoyed a year marked with new facilities and the addition of new programs.

The reception to the Sue & Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center has been “fantastic,” according to university spokesman James Stafford.

The 40,725-square-foot facility has seen capacity crowds at several concerts and events hosted there, Stafford said. It opened in the fall of 2017, and the performing arts center includes multifunctional rooms that allow for learning and performance purposes.

The design also includes a 2,000-square-foot chamber hall, which can be used as a classroom, a venue for small concerts or recitals, or a reception space for social gatherings.

Hardy Hall is going to be renovated to accommodate the university’s new Occupational Therapy program, according to Stafford, which will start accepting students next year. Classes will begin in the spring of 2020.



COURTESY | UMHB

The Mayborn Performing Arts Center opened in fall of 2017.

New programs added this year include an accelerated RN to BSN program, a program in gerontology and occupational therapy. UMHB is also gearing up to expand its health sciences program with the launch of a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

With an anticipated start date of January 2020, the department is moving full steam ahead under the leadership of its new director, Dr. Giulianne “Julie” Krug, who joined UMHB last August to develop the program.

“We are strongly committed to providing our future OT students with the most current education and hands-on learning experiences possible as we prepare graduates who are ready to enter the professional world with confidence, excellence, and excitement,” Krug said.

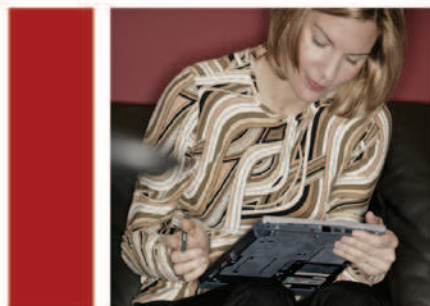
UMHB reported another record enrollment year. According to the official report, 3,914 students now call UMHB home. This number included 174 students pursuing master degrees and 71 students pursuing their doctorate.

Last year, UMHB had 3,898 students enrolled.

The university currently has 11 active-duty military enrolled.

Notable accomplishments include the accreditation of the school’s physical therapy program and donors contributing a total of \$82 million for the UMHB Momentum Campaign.

Stafford said he believes Mary Hardin-Baylor is on the cutting edge of all the top universities in the state.



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DAILY HERALD
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Private and charter schools offer alternatives for Killeen students

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

Several area charter and private schools serve as an alternative option for parents seeking to enroll their children outside of standard public education.

THE RICHARD MILBURN ACADEMY

The Richard Milburn Academy is one of eight academies in Texas. At RMA, students in grades nine through 12 have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma in an environment in which they feel safe, supported and valued. Students can choose from two daily sessions to complete their nontraditional academic, career and life skills curriculum.

Richard Milburn Academy, home to about 200 high school students, is now located at 802 N Eighth St. after the city did not renew its previous lease at 802 N. Second St. last year.

The campus is the former home of Transformative Charter School. Call 254-634-4444, or go to www.milburnschools.org.

OAK CREEK ACADEMY

Oak Creek Academy is a non profit private school for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Established in 2013, Oak Creek offers curriculum tailored to individual students' needs, with in-house speech, occupational, physical and behavioral therapies. This non-graded school has a 1:5 teacher to student ratio that promotes one-on-one learning and individualized instruction. Parents also work with teachers and therapists to promote learning in and outside of the classroom.

Oak Creek is at 1020 Trimmier Road in Killeen. For more



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Transformative Charter Academy is located, at 801 N. Eighth St., in Killeen. Richard Milburn Academy officials moved the academy to this site after the city chose not to renew the lease at its former location.

information, call 254-526-9299 or visit www.oakcreekkilleen.org.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The St. Joseph Catholic School is a private school for pre-kindergarten to sixth grade students accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Commission. St. Joseph is a full-day school which promotes the teachings of the Catholic Church, along with a curriculum of traditional courses such as math, science, language arts, social studies, physical education, music, technology, and Spanish language.

The school is at 2901 E. Rancier Ave. in Killeen. Call 254-634-7272 for more information.

KILLEEN ADVENTIST JUNIOR ACADEMY

The Killeen Adventist Junior Academy is a private, tuition-based school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. The academy is a part of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist School System. Its curriculum is distributed by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Education Department while also incorporating the common core. The academy is accredited through an extension of the Texas Education Agency.

For more information, call 254-699-9466. The academy is at 3412 Lake Road in Killeen.

MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Memorial Christian Academy is a private religious school located on the grounds of the Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen. Its academic curriculum for students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade is based on biblical teachings and promotes a Christian worldview. The school is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Athletics, as well as before and after school care for students, are also offered.

For more information, call 254-526-5403 or visit www.mcawarriors.com. The academy is at 4001 Trimmier Road, Killeen.

Federal Impact Aid supports local school districts

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT
AND
JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

With a large percentage of military families in local school districts, the federal government steps in to provide help improve educational opportunities with something known as Impact Aid.

Impact Aid began more than 65 years ago under President Harry S. Truman. In 1950 he signed public law 81-874, referred to as Impact Aid. Part of the U.S. Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and now the Every Student Succeeds Act, Impact Aid is designed to assist school districts that lose property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property, or due to increased expenditures from the enrollment of federally connected children.

For Fiscal year 2016, federal appropriations for Impact Aid totaled \$1,305,600,000. That amount increased in fiscal year 2017 to \$1,328,603,000.

The amount of Impact Aid received by a school district is determined by an annual survey. This survey is the first step in documenting which students in a district can be identified as federally connected children in the process of calculating Impact Aid payments.

Local school district personnel and board members continue to lobby Congress on the importance of Impact Aid through membership in the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. That organization gathers members from school districts across the United States every spring and fall in Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional representatives and encourage them to vote to continue the Impact Aid programs.

The funding received under this program is considered general aid to the recipient school districts. The districts use the funds in the same manner as local property tax revenue to support the overall operations of the school district, including student programs, assisting in maintaining competitive salaries for staff and improving district facilities. For the fiscal year 2017, Impact Aid covered approximately 13 percent of budgeted general fund revenue for area school districts.

KILLEEN ISD

The Killeen Independent School District received nearly \$48.7 million in basic Impact Aid for Fiscal Year 2017. KISD has budgeted \$46.6 million for Impact Aid revenue for the 2018 fiscal year.

District officials said they remain dedicated to proactively engaging Congress to support the Impact Aid program and explaining the effect of cuts on the district during the twice-yearly National Association of Federally Impacted Schools meetings.

COPPERAS COVE ISD

In CCISD, Impact Aid represents 14 percent of the district's operating budget. For the 2016-2017 school year, the district received \$17,400,551.

"Impact Aid is a significant portion of CCISD's budget," said Joseph Burns, superintendent. "These funds allow the district to provide innovative programming for students, cutting edge technology and a highly qualified staff."

Recently, the district has seen a decrease in the amount of Impact Aid funding received, due to a decrease in the number of military or federally related students in the schools.

"With the reduction of Impact Aid, CCISD continues to seek

Communities In Schools continues to help area students

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas is a local, nonprofit organization currently serving Bell, Coryell and Williamson counties.

Since the organization's founding in 1992, CIS has grown to serve 48 campuses in six school districts: Killeen, Copperas Cove, Temple, Belton, Salado and Florence.

CIS is one of 27 affiliates across the state of Texas that is a part of the national CIS organization, which includes 164 affiliates across the nation.

"Communities In Schools is the nation's largest and most effective dropout prevention organization because we do whatever it takes to keep kids in school and on the path to graduation," CIS Executive Director Michael Dewees said. "Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life."

The organization offers services that support students at risk of dropping out, to include academic support like tutoring, and even basic needs such as food and clothing for underprivileged students.

CIS addresses student needs by providing supportive guidance and counseling, including children dealing with the deployment of a parent as well as grief counseling, crisis intervention, mentoring, conflict resolution, anger management,

drug and gang prevention and alcohol awareness.

Dewees said his mission is simple. "Our goals are two-fold: To improve academic performance and to provide access to basic necessities so academic success is possible," Dewees said. "Once student needs are met, they can turn their attention and energy to school. This ultimately leads to academic success and higher achievement in school and in life."

Many children face challenges both inside and outside the classroom, he said.

"There may be ample resources in a community, but rarely is there someone on hand who is able to connect these resources with the schools, students, and families that need them most," Dewees said.

To accomplish its goals, CIS partners with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers.

In the 2016-17 school year, CIS served over 5,328 students struggling in academics; on average 91 percent of students improved in academics, behavior, and/or attendance, 99 percent stayed in school, and 98 percent were promoted to the next grade.

CIS relies in part on donations and the support of the community in which it serves. To learn more or to make a donation, visit www.cis-tex.org.

opportunities to backfill the reduced financial footprint while continuing to be the district of choice for many families in Central Texas."

CCISD is projected to receive \$9,495,766 for the 2017-2018 school

year, and \$7,596,613 for the 2018-2019 school year, based on current provisions of the grant. The projected amount of Impact Aid for 2019-2020 will be roughly \$383,000, Burns said.

CTC celebrates 50 years, expands program options

BY BRUCE VASBINDER
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Central Texas College celebrated its 50th year of providing higher educational opportunities to area residents with the fall 2017 semester. Since opening its doors to more than 2,000 students in 1967, CTC has evolved into an institution focusing on an affordable, accessible education.

The school's diverse student population includes nearly 6,000 students per semester at its Killeen and Fort Hood campuses, more than 18,000 students at sites across the globe and an additional 10,000 students taking classes online.

CTC is the top college choice for graduating high school seniors in the area as more than 20 percent of them come to CTC. Local students can save nearly \$15,000 in tuition and fees by completing an associate degree with CTC before moving on to a four-year university, according to university officials.

The school focuses on preparing students for jobs or to transfer to four-year universities, with more than 100 associate degrees and certificates of completion available in many fields. Programs of study include aviation science, business administration, communications, computer science, computer-aided drafting and design, electronics technology, industrial technology, interdisciplinary studies, language, mathematics, nursing and paramedic, science and computer and information technology.

Distance education or online class offerings continue to expand. This past year, CTC was ranked among the best online colleges in the country by affordablecollegesonline.org and bestvaluesschols.com. CTC was also named to the Military Times Best: Colleges 2018 list for the eighth consecutive year and was listed as the second most popular school for Army personnel and fourth most popular overall among all military personnel using Tuition Assistance.

In addition, CTC offers more



The Central Texas College sign is seen at the college in Killeen on March 9.

ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

than 400 online and blended (a combination of online and classroom) courses. Students may complete 37 certificates and 32 degrees online.

CTC also offers a Weekend and Evening College program to allow students with busy work and family schedules to complete any of 27 associate degree plans or 11 certificate programs at night and on weekends.

Another flexible class format innovation added last semester was the CTC Degrees on The Go program. Students can earn an associate degree in 15-16 months through a combination of online classes and evening/weekend classes at either the CTC central campus in Killeen or its Fort Hood campus. Last semester, the Electronics Department began offering an Industrial Control and Robotics certificate program which prepares students for employment in operating, testing, maintaining and calibrating unmanned, automated, servo-mechanical or electromechanical equipment. This type of robotic equipment may be found aboard submarines, aircraft and equipment at worksites such as oil rigs, deep ocean exploration or hazardous waste removal.

CTC continues to foster strong relationships with Fort Hood. Recently, a new military articulation paramedic program opened which awards credit to military or Department of Defense first responders for their experience, knowledge and military trauma courses. This allows them to articulate from their current EMT certification to a paramedic in two semesters, plus internship, instead of the traditional four semesters. In addition, CTC and the Fort Hood Transition Assistance Program are combining to offer a variety of programs in industrial/vocational technology to benefit transitioning soldiers.

Expanding opportunities for high school students in the area school districts to get a head start on a college education has also been a major part of CTC's offerings. Initially offering only dual enrollment college courses, CTC partnered with the Killeen Independent School District to initiate the Early College High School in 2016. This past fall, CTC welcomed back more than 200 KISD juniors to their new home, the recently remodeled Shoemaker Center, on the CTC campus. Many of these students are also enjoying

classroom space in the newly remodeled Eagle Hall which opened in the spring 2018 semester. The Early College High School students are the first with the unique opportunity to combine high school and college courses to earn a college degree and a high school diploma in the spring of 2019.

CTC has also opened a similar program with the Copperas Cove school district this fall.

"As we eclipse our 50-year milestone, one thing that remains constant is our passion to provide a quality affordable education and training to military connected students and families all over the world and to diverse students here in the heart of central Texas," said Jim Yeonopolus, CTC chancellor. "CTC's tuition is the most affordable in the region. Our class sizes are comfortable, not overwhelming and credits earned at CTC transfer seamlessly to four-year public and private institutions, saving thousands - often tens of thousands - of dollars. These reasons and the fact our high educational quality is never compromised make CTC an excellent choice for higher educational pursuits."

Military Child Education Coalition marks 20th anniversary

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Nestled into a small office in Harker Heights, the Military Child Education Coalition has made an impact on lives of military children across the globe.

For 20 years, the nonprofit has hosted programs and training and advocated for the children of service members to ensure that the constant moves and trying separations and deployments do not impact their education.

"It's a joy of a lifetime," said Mary M. Keller, president, CEO and co-founder, describing the work they do. "Our business is to ... give the children whose parents are serving a voice and the opportunity to be appreciated. That's very affirming."

The coalition began as an idea in the late 1990s at the kitchen table of Sandy Schwartz, spouse of then-Fort Hood commander Lt. Gen. Thomas Schwartz and began to form partnerships with the surrounding school districts, Keller said.

Now with more than 200 employees and programs and trainings just about everywhere you can find military families, it's a wonder this international organization has kept its headquarters in a Harker Heights instead of moving up to Washington, D.C.

"We believe goodness happens at the local level. We started here and we all felt strongly to have our organization in a community where it's a military community so we are there with those who we serve," she said. "The school districts been wonderful partners as we've developed new concepts. They are also thought partners and innovators with us."

Two major programs of the coalition are the Parent to Parent program and the Student 2 Student program. Both are based on peer interactions to build community, awareness and advocacy.

The parent program began in 2006 and will soon reach 250,000 participants, Keller said. It uses

informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community that address academic, social, and emotional issues associated with a military family lifestyle. Here it is funded through a grant from the Sid Richardson Foundation out of Fort Worth.

The student version has iterations for elementary to high school aged children and brings together civilian and military dependents to greet new students at school. It's now in more than 1,000 schools.

"One of our first five Student 2 Student programs was at Harker Heights High School, Keller said reiterating the strong partnership with the district that makes this possible. "It gives us this wonderful reasonableness test."

The program is now in schools from Belton to Gatesville in some form or another.

For smaller children, the coalition hosts Tell Me a Story events where kids can hear a story read by a local celebrity. Then they can participate in an activity and take home a free copy of the book.

But it's not just about working with the families, the coalition also hosts training and professional development for educators, counselors, social workers and other youth-serving professionals. The first curriculum was created in 1999 thanks to a grant from the national arm of the Association of the U.S. Army.

Another grant allows the coalition to fund about 20 military student



TODD MARTIN | KISD

Shoemaker High School sophomore Frederick Hicks, right, leads a tour along with other officers of the campus Student 2 Student chapter for Lucy Fitch, chief communications officer for government contractor SAIC, a major supporter of the Military Child Education Coalition.

transition consultants to serve as their special guidance counselors in military-heavy districts.

One works within both the Killeen and Copperas Cove districts. Other districts have guidance counselors who have received additional training and are known as military student transition affiliates.

"We're a coalition. We cannot claim credit. This is a community of work. That's what we're proud of we're really a relentless focus,"

Keller said. "We have a sacred obligation to children whose parents are serving."

While the coalition's official anniversary date is Aug. 10, they plan to celebrate a few times this year, including in July at their national training seminar in Washington, D.C.

"We want to celebrate the people who've worked so hard from the very beginning," Keller said.

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Fort Hood Education Services helps spoldiers in serving on active duty and in later life

BY ROSE L. THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

With education benefits listed as a top priority and incentive for service members, Fort Hood offers a variety of programs and services to meet demand at the Defense Department's largest Education Services center.

Educational benefits have historically played a pivotal role in the recruitment and retention of quality personnel. Over the past 17 years, the majority of service members and veterans named educational benefits as a primary and motivating factor for joining the Armed Forces.

According to the 2015 Military Compensation Retirement

Modernization Commission report, tuition assistance was considered twice as valuable as quality of life benefits which include military housing, childcare and family support services.

"Clearly, education is a strong motivator and valued by those who volunteer to serve the Armed Forces," said Peggy Stamper, Fort Hood education services specialist.

Fort Hood's 220,000-square-foot Education Services Center, also known as the Soldier Development Center, houses 89 classrooms and 990 computers to support the education of the Soldiers and Fort Hood community members who use the facilities. NCO Academy,

PLEASE SEE **SERVICES, PAGE 78**



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SERVICES

FROM PAGE 77

Troop School, MOS refresher training and Mission Command Training center classrooms are also housed in the building to provide professional development resources for soldiers.

Soldiers now earn two promotion points for each semester hour of college education and an extra 20 points for degree completion.

“As soldiers depart the regular Army, Education Services is committed to assisting them and their families as they reintegrate into civilian communities,” Stamper said.

The Fort Hood Education Services Team, led by Education Services Officer Mike Engen, with support from Fort Hood leadership, will work to ensure service members succeed in receiving support, benefits and opportunities. Engen said 6,800 Fort Hood soldiers pursued an

education from 232 colleges and universities that were regionally and nationally accredited last year.

Soldier outreach and programs are part of the team’s efforts to ensure soldiers are informed on their benefits. The include February’s Community Education Summit, a joint venture with the Fort Hood Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation; April’s College Fair, which included almost 70 schools and attracted nearly 1,000 guests; May’s Military Spouse Appreciation Day activities; June’s Council on Military Education in the South Conference; September’s Education Center Open House and BBQ; monthly Vocational/ Technical Education Fairs; and the Annual Installation Consolidated Graduation Celebration.

Education Services launched a Family Literacy Campaign, establishing free book-sharing areas in the Soldier Development Center.

To give the community an additional test opportunity,

Testing Services completed the requirements and became certified to administer Federal Aviation Administration tests.

Fort Hood recognized Hood Heroes from among Education Center counselors in every quarter, and honored soldiers and units with Hood Hero Awards for Education Excellence.

“I am really proud of the work my team has done this year,” Engen said. “We are truly honored

to serve soldiers, and I believe that shines through in every counseling session, special event, briefing, Facebook post, and customer service response; 2017 was a great year; we look forward to 2018 being even better.”

For more information, visit the Education Services website at www.hood.army.mil/esd and follow Fort Hood Education Services on Facebook for the latest updates on briefings and event updates.

Local schools meet Texas academic standards

BY JULIE A. FERRARO

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Each year, the Texas Education Agency issues report cards to the school districts throughout the state.

The Texas Academic Performance Reports pull together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. Performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics, according to the TEA website.

State accountability ratings are based on four performance indices: student achievement, student progress, closing performance gaps, and postsecondary readiness.

Individual campuses in the district each receive a rating, which can run from “met standard” to “improvement required” or “not rated”.

Alternative campuses can achieve a rating of “met alternative standard” as a result of being evaluated under alternative education accountability provisions.

Campuses that receive a rating of Met Standard are eligible for as many as seven distinction designations: Academic Achievement in English Language Arts (ELA)/ Reading, Academic Achievement in Mathematics, Academic Achievement in Science, Academic Achievement in Social Studies, Top 25 percent: Student Progress, Top 25 percent: Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness.

In the Copperas Cove Independent School District, all schools received a “met standard” designation for the 2016-2017 school year, which is the most recent data available. Many of the campuses also received distinction designations.

Killeen Independent School District received “met standard” designations for all schools assessed by state accountability ratings. Some KISD alternative campuses were not rated, based on the programs offered.

Salado, Florence and Belton Independent School Districts all received “met standard” designations for their schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Local districts are proud of their achievements in this area, which show the students are progressing academically according to state requirements.

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Demand strong for commercial lots in Heights

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The city of Harker Heights witnessed steady demand for commercial properties in 2017.

During the year, the city issued 12 commercial permits with a total reported valuation of \$3,371,288.

This compares favorably to 2016, during which the city issued five commercial permits with a reported valuation of \$2,030,375.

“With most of the larger commercial lots already developed, demand for the city’s smaller commercial lots remains strong,” said City Manager David Mitchell. “We projected added commercial valuation to decline from years past based on the lot size of available, developable lots, but we also felt like commercial demand was high, and we have witnessed that in the strong number of projects in 2017.”

It was the most commercial permits the city had issued since 2014.

In 2017, the city welcomed a commercial strip center at 980 E. Knights Way that houses Express ER, Great Clips and a dental center.

Another commercial strip center was located at the intersection of Cheetah Trail and Central Texas Expressway at which a Sylvan Learning Center has opened.



Several new business are seen in Harker Heights Thursday, March 15, 2018.

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The city continued to see strong demand from restaurants with a new McDonald’s opening on FM 2410 and a number of other restaurants in various stages of planning for development.

“Staff is holding development conversations with at least three restaurants at this time,” Mitchell

said. “The forecast for 2018 remains strong given the discussions we are already holding and the overall strengthening of the U.S. economy.”

The city continues to work closely with The Retail Coach, the city’s retail recruitment consultant, to bring in new places to shop and eat.

“If we can bring destinations closer to our citizens it gives them the opportunity to shop and eat closer to their homes, which in turns frees up time for other things they want to pursue. Our quest is always to better the quality of life of our citizens,” Mitchell said.

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Heights records major population growth

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Residential growth in Harker Heights continued to reflect the positive demand for housing within the city.

In 2017, Heights' city staff estimated the city surpassed the 30,000 mark in population.

"Crossing the 30,000 population threshold was a significant milestone in the history of our city," said City Manager David Mitchell.

With demand for residential lots remaining steady, the city issued 23 more residential permits in 2017 than in the prior year.

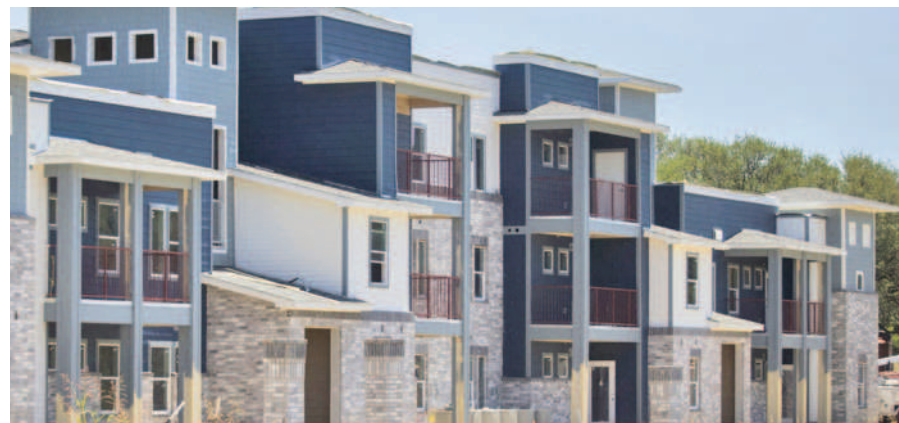
"The growth the city experienced in 2017 tracked nicely with our staff's forecasting. The larger remaining areas for residential development have some topographical challenges that will result in more engineering time and a slower market delivery of lots," Mitchell said.

"Harker Heights remains poised to be a place of destination for residents due to its unique sense of place, excellent home values, quality infrastructure, safe environment and engaging city parks and programs," he said.

The city issued a total of 185 residential permits in 2017. Of those, 156 were for single-family homes, and 29 were for two-family homes.

Permits for the multifamily development known as Stillhouse Flats were pulled in 2016, but the development officially completed construction and opened in 2017. This development added 96 additional living units within the city.

Subdivisions experiencing the majority of residential development include: Tuscany Meadows, Whitten Place, Evergreen, The Ridge and Knights Ridge. A new development known as Cedar Brook Ridge off of FM 3481 should begin selling



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Stillhouse Flats apartments is one of the many additional living units completed in 2017.

housing lots in 2018 which will continue to provide more lots for the demand for housing in Heights. Other, smaller residential developments are also slated to begin construction in 2018.

City staff believes that the current residential development pace is the new norm for the city.

"We feel the residential

development pace we have now will continue, with some spikes that will occur as larger lots are prepared to develop," Mitchell said. "Even with these developments, topography constraints on available vacant land will continue to dictate the pace of residential development in the city."

Heights city manager spells out the city's mission

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Organizations, large and small, choose to have goals that serve as guide posts for their future. They are communicated to the staff then eventually to their clients.

"In our case, it's a way to keep us honest and our eyes focused on the purpose of why we come to work every day," said Harker Heights City Manager David Mitchell.

Vision statements are created by thriving and growing businesses, organizations and cities to provide a simple statement that sums up the day-to-day activities and services.

Mitchell said the city of Harker Heights' Vision Statement focuses the efforts of council and staff on the desires of residents. The current vision statement, as



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Harker Heights' former mayor Rob Robinson, left, shakes hands with City Manager David Mitchell last year during a farewell reception for Robinson at Harker Heights' City Hall.

created by Mitchell's leadership team, reads: Providing public services that empower people to focus on what matters most: their goals, hopes and dreams.

It is the city's desire that citizens

be able to focus on the things most important to them. To achieve this vision, the city has the following mission statement: Advocate for our citizens, visitors and businesses' public service needs through a trained staff that is ethical, responsive, empathetic and enthusiastic. In essence, the city wants citizens to be unencumbered by their daily utilities such as water, wastewater, drainage and streets.

City officials also want residents to have a safe environment with top-notch medical care.

Mitchell said, "The City Council and staff work to meet this vision through capital projects that constantly seek to improve and upgrade the city's infrastructure. The city also works to meet this vision by hiring quality people who have a heart for service

and providing them training opportunities so that the city's employees can provide greater levels of service."

The City Council provides policy direction and oversees/approves the annual budget that provides the resources needed to fund and provide benefits for employees, build and enhance existing infrastructure, and purchase the tools and supplies needed to serve citizens.

"The city's desire, above all else, is to serve our citizens well. We hope that citizens will be proud to call Harker Heights their home.

"Our Vision and Mission statements set a high bar and give us something to strive for every day," Mitchell said.

City facilities and programs receive upgrades

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Central Fire Station, 401 Indian Trail, began a major remodel and expansion in 2017. When the project is completed, the building will provide an additional 4,600 square feet of area for a total building footprint close to 21,000 square feet.

Essentially, Central Fire Station will be totally new on the inside. New offices, dorms, kitchen area, training room and enlarged work out facility are just some of the additions.

The outside of the building is also receiving façade enhancements that will align better with the existing municipal campus in that area that also houses the library and police department. This project should be completed in the coming weeks.

The city prepared plans for and bid out the remodel/addition to the Pet Adoption Center, 403 Indian Trail, in 2017.

The project will provide three cat rooms with catios; a puppy room; puppy porch, exam room, prep area, surgery room, and recovery rooms for both cats and dogs.

The façade of the building will be designed to provide an inviting appearance to encourage people to come find their perfect companion. In all, 2,495 square feet will be added to the center which will make the shelter 9,022 square feet in size.

“The city of Harker Heights remains committed to proving outstanding service to our citizens. Expansions to our Central Fire Department will provide quality quarters, training and fitness areas for our firefighters, which will in turn allow them to better serve the City. Expansions to our Pet Adoption Center focus on our goal to do all we can for lost pets while in terms of temporary housing and care while they are waiting on their forever home.”

LIBRARY

The Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library is known

for its many and varying programs for children, teens and adults. Last year the library expanded its programming series and upgraded the children’s area to provide a comfortable, engaging environment that encourages families to read, play, and learn together.

The library continues to provide a variety of comfortable and inviting spaces for patrons’ needs. Among those spaces are the ever-popular Young Adult section, the adult reading area, the Tina Isdale Read With Me Nook where caregivers and children are welcome to sit in a cozy corner to enjoy a few good books together.

The new Friends and Family Learning Center features games, educational toys, blocks, puzzles, board books and a new parenting collection. Available also for caregivers will be a collection of brochures regarding child development, early literacy and listings of area service providers. Patrons are invited to check out educational toys, as well.

The library also offers two new early education programs. Each Tuesday in April, the library will present “Stepping Stones,” an energetic program for ages 36 months and younger, at 9 a.m., and “Move It, Groove It, Shake It!” a movement and motor skills class for children ages 3 and up, at 10 a.m. Programs are available periodically throughout the year. The Tina Isdale Read With Me Nook, the circulating toy collection and the Friends and Family Learning Center, will be available year-round.

These new services and programs have been funded in part by the friends and family of Tina Isdale, the Friends of the Harker Heights Public Library and a Family Place grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

“Also new this year in the spring is the Read Across Central Texas initiative. Working with 11 other



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Shoppers look for books during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library in Harker Heights on Nov. 4, 2017.

area museums and libraries, the Stewart C. Meyer Harker Heights Public Library encourages families to read and to play together by visiting local entities with no or low cost programming,” according to Library Director Lisa Youngblood.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Bark said, “In preparation for 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department has made changes to enhance both safety and comfort at city facilities.”

Security camera upgrades were installed throughout the Recreation Center and lounging at the Carl Levin Park Pool became more comfortable for more people with the addition high-quality chaise lounges.

In 2018, the department will add a new restroom facility to Carl Levin Park in order to accommodate the growing number of events hosted

at the park.

This past year, the department also added an additional opportunity for residents to have fun with their pets.

“Paws in the Park” made its debut last spring and was held again on March 3 this year.

The athletics department is currently looking at ways to improve access to recreational opportunities for adults and youth with various disabilities through additional programming that will include a rock climbing summer camp, adaptive kayaking, and partnering with surrounding communities to offer fun day-long events.

“Our staff has the opportunity to bring the community together and we are always looking for ways to improve our programs and facilities to accommodate this mission,” according to Recreation Superintendent Jeff Achee.

PLEASE SEE **CITY HALL, PAGE 83**

Heights chamber involvement parallels city growth

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce ended 2017 with a membership of 837 at a 6.24 percent growth rate, according to the chamber's annual report.

"The chamber's growth is in line with the community needs and demands," said Gina Pence, chamber president and CEO. The chamber continues to see growth in the health care field, with more jobs at a higher payscale. Now, Harker Heights' top industries for employment are 1) health care and 2) retail.

This change will continue to strengthen our community's economics," Pence said.

The chamber continues to offer new programs while strengthening existing ones. The purpose is to benefit the community and allow a return on the members' investment, Pence said.

The chamber will continue "The Keepin' It Local" program in 2018 to promote the local community, business, jobs and quality of life.

"The expanded program includes gift cards that can be used at participating members at no cost to the business, and the newest addition is the Local Eats Card offering a list of restaurants for that ultimate local dining experience our community has to offer," Pence said.

"This program will continue to strengthen our communities' economy and create new business relationships," Pence said.

The chamber reports that 2017 brought with it the largest economic impact in 29 years.

Programs and events, such as the 10th Annual Harker Heights Food, Wine and Brew Festival, Harker Heights Initiative School Program, and scholarship fund continued to grow, along with new initiatives. Supporting the military and their families will continue to be a strong initiative for the chamber, as well.

TOURISM

Promoting the city was a strong focus for the chamber in 2017 bringing a total tourism economic impact of \$4.1 million.

The chamber's partnership with Destination Central Texas will continue to focus on regional tourism bringing large events, sporting events, and conferences into the area.

"Our focus is to work as a team putting Central Texas on the map competing for large conferences and bringing more tourism to the area," Pence said.

The team was successful, bringing Mother Earth News, H.O.G Rally, and Texas Team Trail Fishing Tournament in 2017. Destination Central Texas has a

strong tourism calendar scheduled for 2018 bringing a large economic boost to the Central Texas area.

PROMOTION AND MARKETING

"The chamber has renewed our agreement with CGI Communications, Inc.; they will reproduce all new videos in 2017 to help promote our community," Pence said.

The video tour of Harker Heights showcases the city's parks, business community, economic drivers and our schools visit www.hhchamber.com to learn more.

LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

The Vision XXI Leadership Class partners local leaders and key organizations to produce a shared vision of growing the future of the community. HHHS students and 18 adults from local businesses were selected for the leadership class.

"We want our youth to be invested in the community and make sure they become strong leaders in securing the path our local government has started," Pence said.

During the eight-month program, students chose a beautification project for the city of Harker Heights.

They pitched an idea to dedicate "Anderson Arbors" by planting trees and placing an engraved stone on Knights Way named after

the founder of Vision XXI, Dr. James Anderson. The class raised over \$15,000 for the Anderson Arbors class project. Fifty-five trees will be planted on Knights Way next month.

Another highlight of Vision XXI 2017 was that Harker Heights Fire Chief Paul Sims was selected by his classmates as the "Rising Star" for 2017. A tree will be planted at Purser Park to honor his service to the community and the class.

MOVING FORWARD

The chamber's main goals for the new year are enhancing membership participation, promoting economic and sustainable business growth, strengthening regional partnerships, developing and utilizing existing partnerships, tourism development and enhancing the visitor's center.

For future chamber events and programs, Pence encourages residents to check out www.hhchamber.com.

"I want to encourage people to get involved with their chamber and meet the talented and interesting individuals in our community," Pence said. "All programs are designed to advance the interests of the area, its businesses, residents and visitors."

CITY HALL

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The city's new kiosk started accepting payments in December 2016. The city has seen use of the kiosk increase since that time and now is reporting consistent utilization by customers. The kiosk is located in the utility payments drive-thru just past the drive-thru window. Residents

only need their water account number or address to access this free service. The kiosk allows the city to provide utility and court payment options to citizens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

STRONG FINANCIAL STATUS

In the process of issuing the 2018 certificates of obligation, the city was rated by Standard & Poor's (S&P). The city has been rated "AA/Stable". The following information reflects S&P's

opinion of Harker Heights':

- Adequate economy, with a local stabilizing institutional influence;
- Strong management, with "good" financial policies and practices under S&P's Financial Management Assessment methodology;
- Strong budgetary performance, with balanced operating results in the general fund and a slight operating surplus at the total governmental fund level in fiscal year 2016;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2016 of 47% of operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 72.8% of total governmental fund expenditures and access to external liquidity S&P considers strong;
- Strong debt and contingent liability position; and
- Strong institutional framework score.

Harker Heights capital improvement projects

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

STREET REHABILITATION PROJECTS

The following street rehabilitation projects have been budgeted and are currently being engineered for bidding, according to Mark Hyde, director of Public Works for the city of Harker Heights.

Intersection drainage work at the Oakwood/Valley Oaks intersection.

Reconstruction of Verna Lee Boulevard (to include sidewalks), Wampum Drive, Aztec Trace (from Ute to Osage to include installation of curb and gutter), Boulder Run, Forest Circle (from South Roy Reynolds to Moody), Moody Circle and Clore Road.

These road projects cost \$3 million and are funded through the city's 2018 Certificate of Obligation.

The city has selected KPA Engineers to handle the engineering for the road projects. The road projects are expected to take all of 2018 and into 2019 to complete.

"These projects show the level of commitment that the City Council has for ensuring that the City has a quality and sustainable road network," stated City Manager David Mitchell.

TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUT AT COMMERCIAL DRIVE & HEIGHTS DRIVE

This project includes constructing a one-lane traffic roundabout at the intersection of Commercial Drive and Heights Drive to reduce the traffic congestion on Commercial Drive.

The city has been awarded Category 7 funding from the Texas Department of Transportation for construction of the project.

Category 7 projects are selected by the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization with consultation from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The city is finalizing negotiations with the WalMart Super Center for the additional right of way required for the project.



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Construction crews continue to work on the project to widen 1.5 miles of Farm-to-Market 2410 in Harker Heights. The \$6.8 million project is expected to be completed in spring 2019.

The construction probable cost estimate for the project is \$483,573.

"This project was designed to alleviate traffic congestion which in turn should greatly enhance access to the commercial properties in that area," Hyde said.

EXPANSION OF I-14 IN HARKER HEIGHTS

To keep up with Central Texas' growing population, the Texas Department of Transportation has bid a project to expand I-14 from four lanes to six lanes from the city's western limits to just west of the Indian Trail overpass.

The project has been awarded and the construction is expected to begin this year.

Future phases of construction will widen I-14 further eastward to I-35. "I-14 is a critical piece of infrastructure to our city and region for the mobilization of Fort Hood assets, traffic mobility and for the greater regional economy," City Manager David Mitchell said.

WASTEWATER LINE EXPANSION TO EAST

The city has begun the engineering process to extend a gravity sewer line from the city's current wastewater mains generally to an area near Pueblo Trace. This line will allow the city to take an older sewer lift station that is out of commission and also supply sewer service to the new KISD middle school that will be built on Warriors Path.

This project is expected to be engineered and the right-of-way acquired in 2018 with construction in 2019.

WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT

The project includes cleaning, sandblasting and a re-coat of the inside and outside of the Cedar Oaks 1 MG Stand Pipe, Cedar Knob 100K Ground Storage Tank, Verna Lee Ground Storage Tank 1.5 MG (inside only) and the Evergreen 150

K Elevated Tank (spot repair only).

The project is currently in the engineering design phase. The construction probable cost estimate for the project is \$782,000.

DEMOLITION OF DECOMMISSIONED WATER GROUND STORAGE TANKS AND PUMP STATION

This project begins with the demolition of the Arrowhead 300,000-gallon steel ground storage tank then demolition of the old Maintenance Pump Station, valve vault and 500,000-gallon steel ground storage tank.

The project is currently in the engineering design phase. The construction probable cost estimate for the project is \$80,000.

MOUNTAIN LION ROAD RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The project includes removal of the existing cross tie retaining walls and existing privacy fences on Mountain Lion Road from Wilderness Drive to one lot past Modoc Drive; construction of a 4 feet tall average height segmented block retaining wall with new 6' tall wooden privacy fences and the relocation of the 6-inch water line and fire hydrant assembly.

The project has been completed and cost \$238,490.

DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN CIP NO. 2

The project includes widening the drainage channel from Clore Road to Amy and from Indian Oaks Drive to Clore Road.

The project will increase the capacities of the culverts and concrete channels, reducing the limits of the 100-year floodplain and reducing the flooding impact on surrounding properties.

The project is currently in the various stages of engineering and will be developed in phases.

The construction probable cost estimate for the project is \$1.7 million.

Funds for the project come from the city's 2018 Certificate of Obligation with the drainage portion supported by the Drainage Fund.

Armed Services Y offers child care programs

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Armed Services YMCA Killeen has been serving the Greater Fort Hood area for more than 50 years.

With the tradition set forth from the beginning of the Armed Services YMCA that has been established since the Civil War, and supported our service members and their families. The Armed Services YMCA banners have been flown in every conflict since.

The Armed Services YMCA Killeen/Harker Heights has several significant programs to serve both the military and civilians of the Greater Fort Hood area.

One noteworthy program is the Before and After School Child Care Program, this program runs at 41 area schools in the Killeen, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, Florence, and Belton school districts.

In 2018, the “Y” has added an educational component to the child care program to include curriculums that will provide additional support to what they are taught in the classroom.

The Armed Services YMCA Killeen also provides childcare during the Spring and Winter break and starts as early as 6 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

The Armed Services YMCA offers a Summer Child Care program for children that are in need of all-day child care. Financial assistance is available for all child care programs.

“I take the same level of care I would expect for my children,” said Antionette Wiggins, associate executive director of Child Care.

There is Program Center located at 100 E. Beeline in Harker Heights for ages 9 to 18 that provides a safe place for children to partake in activities, field trips, and programs. Located adjacent to the Program Center is the ASYMCA Aquatic Center that includes a swimming pool and spray pad that opens during the summer months and is



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Dr. Erik Lovria, of Seton Medical Center, talks about health issues during a cook demonstration and health learning event at the Armed Services YMCA test kitchen in Harker Heights Thursday, December 4, 2018.

open to the public.

New for 2018 is Armed Services YMCA Speciality Camps. These camps will run during spring, winter and summer times. Speciality Camps are an alternative for children who do not need all-day child care but would like to learn a craft, hone a skill, or just have a good time.

Each camp will be dedicated to a specific topic, anywhere from arts and crafts to STEM, cooking or sports. There will be something for everyone.

Also, the ASYMCA offers Kids Night Out that provides an opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out while their children are in a safe and nurturing environment for an evening and offer activities for ages 6 months to 13 years old.

The Y is known throughout the world for its fitness centers, and the Armed Services YMCA is no exception.

The Harker Heights Wellness Center is located at 110 Mountain Lion Road and is a 54,000-square-

foot facility and open seven days a week. It has a heated 10-lane lap pool, warm water therapy pool, 7,000 square foot fitness floor, group exercise classes, personal training, child watch, basketball court, indoor running track, swim lessons, and a café. The Armed Services YMCA tries to remove all barriers to anyone wanting to improve their health.

Fitness Director Katie Lochridge, said, “Being able to help people take a step towards better health is a win for themselves, their family, and the community.”

The Armed Services YMCA Killeen has a long history of military support programs. Operation Kid Comfort is a program in which volunteers make quilts for children of deployed soldiers to help them cope with the separation due to deployments.

On the horizon, the ASYMCA is working to bring in two new military support programs. Teddy’s Child Watch provides childcare so that parents can focus on their

health during appointments, and keeps children away from other sick patients. This program will reduce the financial hardship and stress to find drop-in child care, and will improve the overall health of the military family.

Operation Little Learners is a parent and child class that emphasizes Kindergarten readiness, socialization, and positive parent/child interaction. Operation Little Learners provides a structured learning environment that prepares children for the classroom.

“The Armed Services YMCA will continue to grow and prosper, as we add new and exciting new programs and services that meet the demands of our soldiers, their families, and the communities that support them,” Sheri Yerrington, executive director of the Armed Services YMCA Killeen, said.

To find out more about the Armed Services YMCA Killeen visit asymca.org/killeen-home or [fb.me/yourasymca](https://www.facebook.com/yourasymca) or call 254.690.YMCA.

Nolanville improvements include drainage, sidewalks

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Nolanville City Council emphasized Drainage, Road and Park Improvements over the past year. In order to make progress on deferred maintenance issues, the Council passed a seven-year note for \$500,000.

This short-term loan provided improvements that will have long-term effects and prevent further damage to infrastructure.

Public Works Director Chris Atkinson has managed several projects and improvements over the last year.

The largest portion of the bond was dedicated to solving the drainage issues on Elm and Dogwood Street. Jones & Carter provided the engineering and TTG is finishing up construction. The scope of the work included re-grading the drainage ditch on the west side of the Plaza. This improves the drainage for the area and will help slow the degradation of roads.

Ribbon curbing, commonly mistaken as a tiny sidewalk, was added to the edge of the new pavement to prevent chipping of the side of the road. It also helps define residential parking areas.

In addition to reconstruction of select residential streets, TTG installed a new road that connects Dober Street to Mesquite Street. The road length also provides parking for special events and the connection provides a secondary exit for those that live within the Plaza.

Red Leaf Drive Drainage & Street Repair was identified and engineered in 2016. The repetitive flash floods caused large potholes to form on the open drainage design. The work was engineered by KPA to bring the flow underground.

Snyder Construction completed the work in the summer of 2017 with minimal disruption. Chimney Hill, another section of open drainage, was damaged last year. Reconstruction plans will

be included in next fiscal year's budget.

Blue Bonnet Spillway degradation was identified in November 2017. The drainage was completed by KPA immediately. Although it was not part of the bond's initial focus, it is a priority as funds become available.

WALKABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Walkability Improvements Nolanville was fortunate to receive funding for two Texas Department of Transportation grants. The first project is the Old Nolanville Road Safe Routes School, that will fund 80 percent of improvements that will provide sidewalks, widening of the road for shared use and bus stop traffic. Due to hurricane impacts in Texas, Construction Cost were higher than estimated. Overages for the project are being funded with Street Maintenance Sales Tax.

Main Street Connectivity adds sidewalks, multi modal access and improved safety along Main Street. The sidewalks extend to the bus stops along the Interstate 14 access road. The TxDOT grant for this project also covers 80 percent of construction, the 20 percent required match was funded by the Economic Development Corporation.

The plans are nearly complete and were expected to be ready for bidding construction this month.

Long-term plans for improved walkability include a connection from Avenue H to the park. Improvements along FM 439 Spur are needed, by adding a buffered shoulder or walkway, pedestrians and bike could safely travel to key infrastructure.

"The heavy truck traffic makes it particularly dangerous to walk along the Spur, but in some instances it is necessary in order to make it to a destination," said City Manager Kara Escajeda.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In 2017, a Master Plan was



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Construction of a new community center is seen in Nolanville Thursday, March 15, 2018.

completed for the City Park at the North end of Mesquite Street. The intent is to install various elements and improvements over a five-year period. During the first year, Phase I was completed using a Texas Parks & Wildlife grant of \$150,000, that required a 50 percent grant match. Improvements made with this funding included a splash park, scent garden, pavilion, picnic tables and playground improvements to include a sun shade.

GROWTH & CHANGES

Notable improvement spurred by the City Council was an update in the building standards and property maintenance codes. The Substandard Building Ordinance dove tailed this action to raise the level premise care that will improve safety as well as property values.

Crystal Briggs, City Secretary, said, "Our primary focus is to improve customer service by streamlining processes and becoming more electronic."

PLANNING & ZONING

Planning & Zoning introduced some important improvements over the last year to include the Master Park Plan. They also welcomed a new chairman, Chevan Jessamine.

The commission took responsibility for recommending zoning changes. One of the changes in progress involves designating the Plaza district (currently zoned as Manufactured Home District) to a Multi-family district. This effort coordinates other efforts in the area to remove vacant trailers that are an attraction for nefarious activity.

The Commission also met with the Texas Downtown Association Assessment Team to gain insights on P&Z activity that could enhance the city. They incorporated ideas from this report into their goals and objectives for 2018.

BUSINESS GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Corporation continues to successfully attract small

PLEASE SEE **NOLANVILLE, PAGE 88**

Belton population, businesses steadily growing

BY FME NEWS SERVICE

BELTON — During 2017, more than 500 people officially became Beltonians, growing the city's population to 21,721.

That's according to population estimates unanimously approved by the Belton City Council in early January. Last year, city officials set the population of Belton at 21,214 people.

"This helps us determine what our growing population is between when the Census is done and now," Planner Kelly Trietsch said of the population estimates.

The population estimate helps the city determine what is needed for Belton's services, Trietsch said.

The 2018 population estimates, which were calculated by the Planning Department, marks a 3,505 person jump from the 2010 Census, which pegged Belton's population at 18,216. This is a 19.2 percent increase from the U.S. Census Bureau's numbers.

The new estimates also show a 2.4 percent increase from Belton's 2017 numbers.

The estimated population numbers, Councilman John Holmes said, shows that Belton is steadily growing.

"Rooftops and apartments all

seem to be going well," Holmes said. "Planning is the key for us. There is more of that to come."

The city of Belton embarked on another round of annexation in 2017. This time the City Council brought in 120.27 acres — a steep cut from the city's initial study of 1,358 acres.

City Manager Sam Listi said throughout the annexation process there were several pressures fueling the growth study, including growth of the Belton school district.

"We just know that Belton ISD and the surrounding area are fast-growing areas and we will need additional schools," school board President Randy Pittenger said in December.

Last year also brought many changes to the streets in and around Belton.

Probably the biggest change for the city and Bell County was the designation of Interstate 14, a 25-mile section of U.S. Highway 190 from Belton to Copperas Cove.

"The designation is a big deal for Belton because we're at the crossroads of two freeway systems," Belton spokesman Paul Romer said.

Belton completed the roundabout at the intersection of Sparta



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Home construction is seen in the Three Creeks subdivision in Belton.

Road and Commerce Street. The traffic circle was a piece of the city's four-part, \$3.1 million road reconstruction project that began in May.

With the growth, several new businesses continue to pop up in and around Belton.

The L&R Meat Market, which has served fresh-cut meat and sausages in Belton for 30 years, moved to a new location earlier this year.

The meat market now is at 601 E. Central Ave., Suite B.

Whimsies boutique moved from Temple to Belton earlier this year. The store at 408 Lake Road offers women's and children's clothing, accessories, jewelry and unique home décor.

In March 2017, the Belton City Council approved a zoning change from agricultural to a commercial zoning district on the south side of U.S. Highway 190, east of Dogridge Road and west of FM 1670 for a proposed swimming pool and spa sales business. Belton-based Back Enterprises requested the change.

Fire Street Pizza, a Bell County food truck with a loyal following, opened a restaurant at 10310 Farm-to-Market 439 in late 2017.

Belton also plans to extend the city sewer system to southern parts of the city which are poised for new development in the years ahead. Plans call for new sewer lines follow the east side of Interstate 35 and branch out.



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Belton tourism includes lakes and a really big July 4 parade

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

BELTON — The county seat of Bell County continues to make community improvements which are bringing more people into the city, according to city officials.

The big event in Belton every year is the annual Fourth of July Parade and associated activities – Rodeo, Carnival and Festival on Nolan Creek.

“Nothing in Central Texas can top the City of Belton’s July 4 parade,” City Manager Sam Listi said. “It is the best way to kick off Independence Day and celebrate all things American. Families faithfully attend every year, scouting out parking spaces along the route days in advance. Those who visit for the first time are determined to return.”

Belton’s Fourth of July parade ranks as one of the best places to be in the country on the Fourth, according to USA Today, and draws up to 50,000 people annually.

The City’s Nolan Creek recreation project is complete and includes a new park with nature trail and kayak/tube launch area. The Nolan Creek Nature Trail, is located below

the MLK bridge on Nolan Creek, with parking available just east of the bridge. From that point it takes up to two hours to float to the downtown area where the cascades are located behind The Gin on Nolan Creek restaurant. Much of the recreation on Nolan Creek is occurring at the cascades, which are a series of light rapids and pools just east of Main Street.

“We anticipate even more people using the creek this year. On June 9th, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Belton’s Parks and Recreation Department plans to offer free tube rides before our Movie in the Park that night, ‘Lego Ninjago’ behind City Hall,” according to an email from city officials.

Year-round the Downtown Belton Merchants Association hosts Belton Market Days, which is held the third weekend of each month. Downtown streets near the historic Bell County Courthouse are closed, and a variety of vendors sell their wares to the public.

Belton’s 2nd Annual Bacon, Blues and Brews Festival will be held in Downtown Belton around the Courthouse Square. The Festival kicks off 6 p.m. Oct. 5 with blues



RUSTY SCHRAMM | TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM

Harper Guenat and Allson Kendzior, both 4 and attendees of Belton Education Station in Belton react as they watch Barrel racers Wednesday morning during the Bell County Youth Fair Mini Rodeo at the Bell County Expo Center.

bands, food trucks and breweries until 9 p.m. The fun continues at noon on Oct. 6 with more bands and breweries and the highlight of the festival, the bacon cook-off competition. Teams will compete to see who can prepare the best bacon-inspired dish.

And then, of course, there’s Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lakes, which host several annual events, and offer year-round boating, fishing, and other water recreation activities for all ages, in Central

Texas’ premier quality of life community, according to the city.

According to the Corp of Engineers, last year there were over 2 million visitors between Belton Lake and Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

Come check Belton out for Tourism, drive the Sparta roundabout at Commerce Drive, and watch for the opening of the Bell County Equestrian Center at the Bell County Expo Center later this year, officials said.

NOLANVILLE

FROM PAGE 86

businesses to the area. This year, the city welcomed King of the Mountain Bike Shop, Personal Veterinary Care, Let Us Do the Cooking, and Fry’s Restaurant.

Sales tax revenue due to the city increased by 15 percent over last year’s revenue. These funds are dedicated toward street improvements and economic development.

Andy Williams was appointed as the EDC president.

The EDC continues to work with Mike Barnes Group to attract potential retail and industry to the area. Their current focus is marketing with the new website at www.nolanvilleedc.com and implementing other creative

strategies to grow interest.

One area of concentration for the EDC is quality of life. Last year, the EDC funded a recycle trailer in order to extend hours for accepting materials Monday-Friday from 9 am -5 pm.

The trailer increases the safety of transport of the recycle materials which is coordinated by Public Works. The EDC is also the board for Keep Nolanville Beautiful, obtaining a grant for \$3,000 for tree planting in the park and environmental education.

GOVERNOR’S AWARD

Keep Nolanville Beautiful received second place for the Governor’s Community Achievement Award in 2016. KNB is ramping up its efforts to secure the victory next year, the award is \$110,000 in landscaping that can be used for a new city sign.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

“The City is very proud of the positive change in organizational culture within The Police Department,” Escajeda said. “Chief Daniel Porter has brought a high degree of organizational management and leadership to the Nolanville Police Department.”

The police officers designed new badges and shoulder patches for their uniforms and emblems for the patrol vehicles. Police officer pay was increased and incentive pay provided for levels of certification. This has had an immediate impact on morale in the department. The turnover rate went from almost 100% in previous years to 0 percent this past year.

Other factors that contributed to retention was higher quality in-service training and an exhaustive screening process to ensure

quality personnel are hired. A departmental chaplain was appointed to assist with officer’s emotional well-being during major traumatic events.

A full audit was completed on our property room which reduced impounded and seized property/evidence.

A grant was secured to purchase rifle protective vests for the department.

Community involvement has been a major focus for the Police Department and the City. Several Neighborhood Watch pages were established with noticeable benefit.

During the Christmas holidays, the Police Department increased patrols in neighborhoods to combat thefts and other property crimes that usually increase during the holiday season.

Belton ISD begins construction on two new schools to support growth

BY ROSEL THAYER
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

BELTON — After many years of planning, the Belton Independent School District has officially broken ground on plans to continue to address growth.

In May 2017, voters approved a \$149.7 million bond program to fund the construction of two new Belton ISD campuses and smaller projects at two existing facilities.

“The growth is really happening all over Belton ISD,” said Superintendent Susan Kincannon.

“We’re preparing for the new homes and the new students that will come with those new homes in our school district. We appreciate our community supporting our efforts to stay focused on the kids and make sure those buildings are here and ready for them when they come.”

As a fast-growth district, the current elementary and middle schools are expected to be at or near capacity in 2019, with the high schools reaching capacity two years later.

The district’s snapshot enrollment, which it provides as an official count to the state at the end of October, was 11,535 in fall 2017. Belton ISD has grown by more than 3,000 students in the last decade, and that rate of growth is not expected to slow down anytime soon.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Construction is seen at Lakewood Elementary is seen in Belton Thursday, March 15, 2018.

According to demographers, the district will likely see a fall 2022 enrollment of 13,787 students.

Construction started in January on improvements to the Wall Street Auditorium and the addition of a gymnasium, music classrooms and bathrooms at Lakewood Elementary School.

Both projects are scheduled for completion by this fall.

Also in January, the community joined teachers, students and District administrators to celebrate the ground breaking of Belton ISD’s 11th elementary campus.

Named after the location chosen for the first election held in Bell County in 1850, Charter Oak Elementary will be built near the intersection of Poison Oak Road and Carriage House Drive in the city of Temple.

“We currently have 5,526 students in grades PK-5, and by the time we open Charter Oak Elementary in the fall of 2019, we will have nearly 5,800 elementary students.” Kincannon said. “This new elementary school will help us to meet our capacity needs, and it will allow us to continue to

provide a quality education for our children for generations to come.”

When finished, Charter Oak Elementary will have space for about 800 students in a flexible and adaptable 21st century learning environment.

The final major project voters supported as a part of the May 2017 bond program is the district’s second comprehensive high school.

Lake Belton High School is scheduled to open in fall 2020 with students in grades nine and 10, and another grade will be added in each of the next two years.

The first senior class will graduate from the school in 2023.

A groundbreaking ceremony for Lake Belton High School, which will be built near the intersection of Farm-to-Market roads 317 and 2483 in the city of Temple, will be held in May.

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With I-35 finished, Salado bouncing back

BY FME NEWS SERVICE

Things are heating up in Salado after years of Interstate 35 expansion was finished in 2017.

Numbers from the Texas comptroller show that Salado had a 16.75 percent increase in total sales tax allocation to \$433,908.49 for 11 months of 2017 from 2016's payment of \$371,646.78. These numbers bode well for Salado, a village reliant on tourism.

Looking ahead, Salado hopes to continue to bounce back from its Interstate 35 doldrums, when heavy construction made for traffic problems in the village of more than 2,000 residents.

The Salado population grew to 2,600 residents as of early March, an increase of about 300 from last year, according to village officials.

The long-awaited sewer and wastewater treatment plant is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. With that, there is the potential for the village to dive into

even more development.

"In my view, this village is absolutely tired of delays with this project," Alderman Michael McDougal said at the time. "I'm glad we're using professionals for this project."

The sewer is anticipated to be complete by December 2018.

STAGECOACH REOPENING

In mid-June 2017, the Stagecoach Inn reopened.

Stagecoach is managed by Austin-based La Corsha Hospitality Group. The group and developers Austin Pfister, David Hays and Clark Lyda renovated Stagecoach Inn.

When the historic restaurant and hotel closed about two years ago, Salado's economy took a hit.

"Now with the Stagecoach Inn coming back online and I-35 finally being complete, Salado is poised for resurgence," Lyda said.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR, POLICE CHIEF

In March 2017, the board of

aldermen hired former Wimberley City Administrator Don Ferguson as the new village administrator and hired Rick Ashe, a former lieutenant with the Temple Police Department and former Salado mayor, as the new police chief.

Ferguson's hiring came six months after the ousting of Kim Foutz, who was Salado's first full-time village administrator.

Ashe succeeded Jack Hensley, who resigned as police chief on Feb. 14, 2017.

SALADO TOURISM

From the annual Salado Christmas Stroll in December to the Wildflower Weekend in late March, the village in south Bell County is constantly trying to bring in tourists.

The village has art galleries, microbreweries, wineries, wine bars, barbecue restaurants and more.

Including a variety of art events, big events that occur every year in Salado: the Wildflower Arts &



RUSTY SCHRAMM | FME NEWS SERVICE

People gather in front of the Salado Stagecoach Mural along Interstate 35 in Salado as they prepare for a ribbon cutting earlier this year.

Crafts Festival at the end of March, Chocolate and Wine in September and the Christmas Stroll in December.

Each of them is expected to bring in about 4,000 to 5,000 attendees, according to officials.

Salado ISD trying to pass bond as growth continues

BY JACOB BROOKS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Salado Independent School District continues its growth with the district's enrollment increasing from 1,348 to 1,854 students over the past five years.

Last year's enrollment was 1,767 students.

The enrollment growth of 38 percent in the past five years is the highest percentage increase of all 81 school districts in the Waco region, according to Michael Novotny, Salado ISD superintendent, noting that the enrollment was 1,348 four years ago.

To address this growth the district has called for a \$49.4 million bond election on May 5. This bond would pay for the

following:

\$41.2 million for a new sixth-through eighth-grade middle school to accommodate the enrollment growth

\$7.4 million for new baseball and softball fields, practice fields and improvements to the existing football/soccer/track stadium

\$800,000 for hallways/corridors to connect three separate elementary school buildings so students don't have to travel between buildings throughout the day

What's the reason for the annual growth?

"About three-fourths of our growth has been from families moving into our district and new homes being built," Novotny said. "There are several home developments within our district

boundaries. New homes are popping up and families are moving in with kids. And then about one-fourth is attributed to additional transfer students — students who live in neighboring districts and their families are transferring their kids into our district."

The Salado Independent School District was awarded the Postsecondary Readiness Distinction Designation by the Texas Education Agency.

"Out of the 159 school districts in Central Texas (Austin/Waco regions) we are one of only six districts that received this recognition. We are the only school district to receive this recognition out of all 12 districts in Bell County," according to the district.

Salado High School took third place in the state academic UIL competition out of about 200 high schools in the 4A level in the past year, Novotny said. The school has won nine state championships in academic UIL. Out of the 1,317 high schools in Texas there are only two that have won more state championships in UIL Academics than Salado High School.

The Salado High School football team made it to the fourth round of playoffs and finished the season with a record of 12-2. This year the Salado High School filmmaking team had two of their films win state championships.

The district started a health science program this year helps prepare students for careers in medical fields.

Florence sees new businesses on Main Street

BY BRITTANY SODIC
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The small Williamson County town of Florence has seen the establishment of new local businesses during the past year, and is expecting the completion of two large projects affecting the community in the near future.

The Florence Chamber of Commerce, which reported 50 businesses as members last year, currently has 33 business members and six individual members, said Mayor Mary Condon.

Although a decrease in membership from last year, there are still a number of new businesses that opened up both on and off Main Street.

The Fisher Gallery: Fine Art & Craft is one shop that opened this past year, at 206 E. Main St., and is home to work by local artists and handcrafted items, Condon said.

Main Street can expect a new business this year, Blacksmith Coffee, after the restoration process is completed for the historic building it will be housed in. The old Remington Savings and Loan building was also recently sold, and remodeling and restoration are underway.

"We look forward to seeing what it will become," Condon said.

Three other businesses opened recently in Florence: Busy Bee Beekeeping Supplies & Gift Shop at 509-D Brewster Ave., Salado Creek Saloon at 12061 Highway 195, and Sunset Acres Dog Ranch at 301 Sunset Acres Lane.

While new businesses have been attracted to the Florence community, new housing projects are also set to begin soon.

"Silverado Ventures ... will be building two new homes on Patterson Avenue and Schwartz and Nunn Construction LLC are getting ready to break ground on three new duplexes on Love Street," Condon said.

The city also recently received a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a new city pool complex which should be completed by summer of 2019, Condon said.

In addition to these new community developments, a controversial asphalt plant is currently under construction about a mile east of Florence at 10957 Farm-to-Market 487.

Construction for the plant was approved in January when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approved an air-quality permit for Asphalt Inc., LLC, aggregate quarry and asphalt plant

site.

"There is concern among the local area people regarding the asphalt plant," Condon said. "Mostly people are concerned about the amount of water the plant and the rock-crushing operation will use."

The residents of the town of fewer than 1,500 people rely on wells for their water source. One well is capable of pumping 100 gallons per minute, and the permit allows for four wells if needed. Troy Carter, operations manager for Lone Star Aggregates, Asphalt Inc. parent company, said that amount of water likely will not be needed.

For more information on local businesses and events in Florence, visit florencechamberofcommerce.org, or florencetex.com.



HERALD | FILE

Blacksmith Coffee, the new coffee shop in town opened last year, will be named after the building's first enterprise in the early 1900s.

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Home of the Harker Heights High School Knights!

Florence ISD moves forward with innovation plan

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

FLORENCE — Innovation is on the minds of students, teachers and administrators at the Florence Independent School District.

A Jan. 16, 2017, school board resolution put the public school system on a path to improving education benefits for students, staff and stakeholders, by changing the way the district functions. A District of Innovation designation would make it more like a charter school, providing flexibility within state education mandates, according to the district website.

It would allow it to pursue “innovations in curriculum, instruction, governance, parent or community involvement, school calendar, budgeting or other areas,” the website reads, “which ultimately allows the district to gain more local control.”

As of May 15, 2017, the Florence ISD Board approved the District of Innovation plan.

Some of the potential benefits to becoming a District of Innovation include exemptions to: a uniform school start date; class-size ratios; 90 percent attendance rule; minimum instruction time; student discipline provisions; teacher certification; teacher contracts; use of planning and preparation periods; and the teacher appraisal system.

The 84th Legislature sparked the concept with House Bill 1842. An academic performance rating of at

least “academically acceptable” is eligible, which Florence ISD met.

Technology is a growing priority.

“The belief of the district is that all students can learn,” the school system said in its long-range technology plan that extends into 2019. “Teachers will utilize research-based instructional strategies and incorporate technology into teaching and learning to meet the needs of all students. The school administrative team will work with classroom teachers and staff to improve teaching and learning opportunities for all students.”

The district for the 2016-2017 year budgeted \$481,454 specifically targeting technology improvements, including \$171,270 in infrastructure for technology; \$148,055 in leadership, administration, and instructional support; \$92,025 in educator preparation and development; and \$70,104 in teaching and learning.

Surveys, interviews and physical observation are among the techniques used to evaluate effectiveness, and it is “a systematic, ongoing process,” the plan says.

Total district enrollment was 1,013 at the time of the technology plan: Florence High School had 290 students; Florence Middle School had 226 students; and Florence Elementary School had 497 students.

About 70 percent of the student body districtwide has access to district technology. The most



ANDY ZAVOINA | HERALD

Florence High's CJ Giddens (3) hands off to Landon Byrne (4) as Florence and El Maton's Tidehaven played the Bi-District playoff game at Cub Stadium in Brenham on Nov 16, 2017.

is at the high school where 97 percent have access to computer lab and library desktops, mobile stations, student desktops/laptops,

Chromebooks, and other devices. The district eventually would like to implement a 1:1 technology initiative at the high school.

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Copperas Cove experiencing housing, retail growth

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

COPPERAS COVE — With an estimated population of 34,272 residents, Copperas Cove continues to experience growth in housing, retail and industrial business.

Two single-family subdivisions are in Phase II of their construction, the Five Hills Retail Center is filling up on the city's east side, and The Narrows Business and Technology Park is slated to get sidewalks.

The Business Highway 190 corridor, currently seven lanes of traffic — three in each direction with a center turn lane — is proposed for a redesign being considered by the Copperas Cove City Council.

The Improvement Plan is intended to make drivers entering Copperas Cove feel more welcome. The roadway would be reduced to two lanes in each direction with a grass-and-tree-lined median and turn lanes at key intersections. Bike lanes and sidewalks would increase safety for those traveling by alternative means.

Copperas Cove has a wide variety of events and activities on tap each year, from the Five Hills Art Guild "GO GREEN!" festival in March to the annual Rabbit Fest in May, both at City Park.

The Rabbit Fest brings an estimated 20,000 people to Copperas Cove and features a

parade, carnival, pageant, car show and rabbit show. The economic benefits to the city from this, and similar events has been praised by the City Council and city officials.

The Five Hills Art Guild recently unveiled its latest project, a mural at the corner of Main Street and Avenue D, featuring a look at the city and its people from the early 1900s.

Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation offers golfing at the Hills of Cove Golf Course, which will soon see a new golf cart path built to ease access to the 18 holes. The Parks and Recreation Department will be performing a host of improvements to the parks in the coming year, from paving parking lots to adding walking trails.

Among other improvement projects on the drawing board for Copperas Cove are the renovation and expansion of Fire Station No. 3, and construction of Fire Station No. 4, which will increase the ability of the Copperas Cove Fire Department to respond to emergency calls throughout the city. The Fire Department will also be adding more than 20 employees and new equipment over the next three years.

The Copperas Cove Animal Shelter, which is part of the Police Department, is also slated for expansion and renovation, to better house the many dogs and cats surrendered by their owners or



JULIE A. FERRARO | HERALD

A large crowd assembled to cut the ribbon during the Burger King grand reopening Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018.

picked up as strays.

The plan also includes a 2,400-square-foot play area for the animals, allowing them to exercise instead of being confined throughout the day in kennels.

Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful, a board created by the city, continues to promote environmental issues to improve the city's overall appearance and quality of life.

With the City Council searching for a new City Manager after Andrea Gardner, who had served in that position for over ten years, resigned in January 2018, Ryan Haverlah is acting as interim city manager and keeping all plans on track as Cove continues to move forward.



HERALD | FILE?

Razzy paints while Randel performs during the Five Hills Art Guild GO GREEN! art fair March 17 at City Park in Copperas Cove.

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Copperas Cove has a lot of building going on

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The City of Copperas Cove continually strives to improve its roads, properties and facilities.

To that end, a considerable list of projects are either ongoing or in the planning stages for the city.

The Copperas Cove City Council approved an amended Capital Improvement Plan at their December 2017 meeting, featuring 49 projects totalling more than \$75 million.

Among the projects currently under way are sidewalk improvements along South Farm-to-Market 116 and in The Narrows Business and Technology Park. Median and sidewalk improvements along Business Highway 190 through the city will soon change the face of that main thoroughfare.

These improvements will bring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and bus stops to these areas.

Supplying water to city residents and businesses requires constant improvements, as the Capital

Improvement Plan shows. Those projects range from waterline relocations and sewer line replacement to storage tank rehabilitation and drainage improvements.

At the Hills of Cove Golf Course, a new golf cart path is part of the overall improvements to the facility.

Other parks in the city will see improvements, as well. Paving of parking lots and renovation of restrooms, concession and storage, construction of pavilions, playgrounds and paved walking trails are included in those plans.

PLANNED FOR 2019-2022

A new facility for the Copperas Cove Animal Shelter has been in the planning stages for awhile. Construction on the project will start in 2019, according to the Capital Improvement Plan. This will allow Animal Control to house more animals and allow for longer stays in the shelter, increasing adoption opportunities.

A redesign and expansion of Cove's Fire Station #3 is on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2020, which will provide space for additional Fire Department



JULIE A. FERRARO | HERALD

One section of sidewalk being replaced along Business Highway 190 is just a small portion of the construction projects planned in Copperas Cove.

personnel and equipment.

Improvements to the city's radio communication system infrastructure is scheduled for 2021. The current system has been in place since 2004, and is reaching the end of its programmed life expectancy, according to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Fire Station #4 will be built to give the Cove Fire Department a means to handle the ever-increasing number of calls in the growing metropolis. That project is

due in 2022.

The complete Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Copperas Cove can be found on the website: www.copperascovetx.gov.

Reconstruction projects on Pecan Cove Drive, Oak Hill Drive, Deer Flat Drive, Ogletree Pass and Freedom Lane are planned for completion by 2022. Improvements such as installing guard rails in areas with steep dropoffs and installation of curbs are part of those projects.

New housing subdivisions coming to Copperas Cove

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

New housing subdivisions and commercial properties continue to be built in Copperas Cove, according to the city's Building Department.

The department issued 113 new single-family building permits during 2017, as website records show. That includes houses both in subdivisions currently under construction and individual houses built elsewhere in the city.

The value of those properties is over \$18 million.

Commercial permits issued by the Copperas Cove Building

Department during 2017 had a value in excess of \$6 million.

The value of permits issued for remodeling both homes and commercial properties increases that total dramatically.

Heartwood Park Phase II subdivision will be built by contractor D.R. Horton, off Courtney Lane on the city's north side. The development will be near S.C. Lee Junior High and Williams/Ledger Elementary School in the Copperas Cove Independent School District.

Single-family homes in that subdivision range from 1,500 square feet to over 3,100 square feet, with costs starting at \$149,000.

Liberty Star Phase I subdivision is located on the east side of Copperas Cove, off Constitution Drive. The residences are being built by Manning Homes, and single family units begin at 1,700 square feet, with a cost of \$212,500. There will be 70 single-family homes in Phase I, and three multi-family units. Phase II of the subdivision is just getting started.

The population of the city is one driving force which spurs new housing and commercial construction. The population continues to grow, with the 2017 figures showing it at 33,219.

The need for additional housing in Copperas Cove can be partially

attributed to Fort Hood, data shows. Families of soldiers assigned to the post can choose to live in a smaller city with less crime and traffic.

Additional data shows Central Texas continues to grow as businesses move to the area. Copperas Cove is close enough to new businesses to be convenient for those locating to staff those businesses.

"The potential for growth is always positive with the construction of new residences and commercial properties," said Mike Morton, Cove's chief building official.

Cove police educate public; fire station renovation set

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The past year was the Copperas Cove Police Department's first full year with Chief Eddie Wilson at the helm.

Wilson took over as the interim police chief in April 2016, when then-Chief Tim Molnes retired due to health reasons. Molnes died of cancer on May 30, 2016.

Wilson was then named the permanent police chief in December 2016. He graduated from Copperas Cove High School in 1985 and attended Central Texas College as a criminal justice major. Wilson joined the police department in 1989, and has worked at every rank within the department during his 27-year career with CCPD. He has served as a detective, a SWAT team commander, a police instructor, and also spent time as the interim Parks and Recreation director.

CCPD is holding its 32nd Citizens Police Academy, and a record group of 32 people attended the opening class. The academy will meet weekly for three hours until graduation May 4.

The first class consisted of an introduction to the police department and a tour of the police station. Other lessons focus on narcotics, criminal investigation, juvenile procedures, crime scene investigations and traffic laws.

Fire Chief Michael Neujahr has held the role of fire chief for almost four years. The department was founded in 1947 as a volunteer organization which has evolved over the years into a fully paid, highly professional emergency services organization. The year 2017 was the first full year that Fire Station No. 2 was fully operational for an entire year. The station replaced the old No. 2, which was located next to the Civic Center at 1206 W. Avenue B.

In a February city council meeting, the fire chief proposed a \$2.05 million renovation to Fire Station No. 3, which will enlarge the staff quarters, living area, apparatus bay, storage and driveway to adequately handle the current equipment and additional staff. If all goes according to his plan, construction for a new station will begin in 2019.



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Copperas Cove police Chief Eddie Wilson speaks Feb. 13, to 32 people participating in the Citizen Police Academy at the police department.

The program teaches members of the public what it's like to be a police officer. More than 600 people have participated in the academy since it started in 1997, said Sgt. Kevin Miller, Copperas Cove police spokesman and class coordinator.

"It's exciting to have this much interest in the police department," he said.

The fire department is presently staffed by 36 firefighters, six lieutenants, three fire captains, two deputy chiefs, the fire chief and an administrative assistant for a total of 49 employees.

Based on 2017 call figures, Fire Station No. 4 would handle over 700 calls per year. It would be equipped



HERALD | FILE

Copperas Cove Fire Chief Michael Neujahr addresses the City Council last August. The chief has proposed a \$2 million renovation to Fire Station No. 2.

with an aerial quint with platform — which offers pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders — an ambulance, a brush truck and a command vehicle.

Staff for Fire Station No. 4 would be hired over a three-year period, for a total of 15 firefighters and

three lieutenants. The yearly cost of salaries for these employees would be approximately \$1.4 million.

"We want to hire new personnel for Fire Station 4 prior to the new building opening its doors, so they're ready to go," said Deputy Fire Chief Gary Young.

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Copperas Cove saw significant increase in visitors in 2017

BY BRITTANY SODIC
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

COPPERAS COVE — Last year, the city of Copperas Cove initiated the Copperas Cove Civic Center and Visitors Bureau to help drive visitors into the community, and tourism has increased ever since.

The Copperas Cove Visitors Bureau, or CCVB, provides a one-stop shop to guests looking for information and maps on attractions in the Central Texas area. More than 1,100 guests have visited the CCVB from January 2017 to early February 2018, with over 5 percent being out of state, said Tourism and Information Coordinator Heather Bryan.

The number of visitors to the CCVB is not the only thing with a growing attendance in Copperas Cove.

The Copperas Cove 5K Run to the Polar Bear Plunge, which took place Jan. 27, saw a 96 percent increase in participation of the race with 283 participants compared to 144 participants in 2017. Ninety-one of those participants also chose to take the plunge in the cold temperatures of the City Park Pool, said Bryan.

“Our annual Fall-o-ween Festival is a wonderful event that continues to grow by leaps and bounds yearly,” she said. “Fall-o-ween saw a 33 percent [growth] in attendance in 2017, with over 5,300 guests.”

It was also a year of firsts for many special events in 2017.

“The Inaugural Food Truck Festival in July of 2017 had 3,200 guests in attendance and garnished positive community response,” said Bryan.

The Copperas Cove Farmer’s Market, which ran from May 4 to Oct. 26 every Thursday in City Park, had over 6,000 guests throughout its first ever season, she said.

Following the success of these events, Copperas Cove has a number of special events planned in 2018 to continue to increase the growth of its visitors.

The Food Truck Festival will look



JUANA NESBITT | HERALD

Central Texas residents attend the first-ever Copperas Cove Food Truck Festival on July 29, 2017, at Ogletree Gap Park.



JULIE A. FERRAR | HERALD

Nearly 300 people participated in the 5K Run to the Polar Bear Plunge on Jan. 27, at Copperas Cove City Park.

to double the number of trucks from last year as well as provide a beer tent, live music, and kids zone.

The Fall-o-ween Festival is expected to continue its growth through expanded community

business involvement on the safe trick or treating lane, as well as streamlining the sales and admittance process for the festival activities, Bryan said.

The 2018 year will end with a

Christmas Extravaganza from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30 in City Park.

“Guests will be able to visit with Santa, enjoy live music and caroling throughout the park, fill up at gourmet food trucks, and be dazzled by thousands of white lights which will stay up throughout the month of December,” Bryan said.

The Downtown Revitalization Project, which started January of 2017, finally came to a close in mid-February of this year with the final project of the installation of more light poles. The project was approved last year for the replacement of older sidewalks and the addition of wheelchair-accessible ramps, along the existing walking path on Avenue D from the corner of South Third Street to South Second Street.

“We will continue to strive for affordable, family-friendly events that bring in members from all surrounding communities and beyond by [ensuring] quality attractions for each member of the family,” Bryan said. “These events are also growing each year (still very new) and will continue to seek and find ways to strengthen their footprints in not only our community, but also the region.”

Cove EDC activity in holding pattern

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

While the mission of the Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation is to “establish and maintain a comprehensive economic development program for Copperas Cove through new industry recruitment, business expansion and retention activity and business development,” that has been difficult this past year.

In addition to the organization going through some leadership changes, the resignation of Cove’s long-time city manager has delayed the hiring of a new EDC director so programs can move forward.

For the first five months of 2017, Diane Drussell was the only EDC staff member. During that period, the EDC director’s duties were handled by the Copperas Cove city manager. A director for the EDC was hired and worked in the position from May through November 2017, when he was removed. An interim director was appointed, leaving in January 2018.



JEFF STEERS | HERALD

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation building at 210 S. First St.

Drussell has served as interim director of the EDC since that time.

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation was formed in 1990 by a vote of the citizens. Board members are appointed by the Copperas Cove City Council, serving three-year terms that can be renewed by a vote of the council.

The EDC board has worked for nearly three decades to negotiate land deals with Fort Hood and attracted many businesses to retail

developments and other areas of the city.

The EDC works with other Copperas Cove city departments to ensure the infrastructure for new businesses is in place. The EDC can also provide incentives for businesses interested in locating or expanding in Copperas Cove.

Classes and meetings to encourage small business development are part of the EDC program.

The Cove EDC works with

businesses interested in locating or expanding to Copperas Cove. In 2017, some of those businesses included Home Base, The Yellow Armadillo, Twin Liquors, Uptown Liquor, Integrity Urgent Care, Burke’s, Maurice’s, Ross Dress for Less, Rack Room Shoes, Raising Canes, and McAlister’s Deli.

“The Economic Development Department participates in marketing/recruiting events, follows up on leads from the state and other resources, and makes calls to companies who have expressed interest in our city,” Drussell said. “In addition, we attend trade shows to help companies who are interested in relocating to Texas.”

The Copperas Cove EDC has a budget of \$253,731 for fiscal year 2017-2018, as approved by the City Council.

Plans for 2018 remain pending, Drussell said, with the hope businesses will continue to locate in Copperas Cove, increasing the tax base, employment base and giving residents a greater choice in services.

Cove city council changes parks, parking and water ordinances

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Copperas Cove City Council covered a lot of ground after it passed 55 ordinances in 2017 and eight so far this year.

Ordinance 2018-10 passed with a 5-2 vote during the February meeting and lets city leaders license city property like parks to the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce for events sponsored by the chamber like Rabbit Fest, Gallop or Trot and several Christmastime events, among others.

Council members overturned the prior 2015 ordinance that allowed city leaders to charge the chamber up to 25 percent of its

profits from the events.

Debate centered on whether chamber events served a “public purpose,” and it was decided the events did qualify because of enhanced tourism.

Another ordinance that prompted discussion among citizens was 2018-03, passed with one nay vote in January, which amended Chapters 18 and 20 in the city’s code of ordinances and gave the police department power to regulate parking on public streets as well as private grounds.

“This ordinance essentially cleaned up parking restrictions within the city in both public and private areas and enhances public safety and provides better authorization for enforcement,”

said Kevin Keller, the city’s public information officer. “Previously, recreational vehicle parking was addressed in Chapter 20, Zoning, making it difficult for citizens to find at times.”

The new rules prohibit vehicles, recreational vehicles and trailers from being parked in yards and giving recreational vehicles parked on city streets 72 hours to load or unload.

No oversized vehicles can be parked on a public street after 9 p.m. without a permit from the police department.

Copperas Cove residents also have seen their water rates increase as of Jan. 1 after the passage of ordinance 2017-53 at the city’s November 2017 meeting.

“A third party completed a utility rate study, the findings of which were discussed with council during various workshop and meetings,” Keller said. “The study pulled data from the city’s various multi-year plans, from a funding and planning perspective, to calculate the rates that would be required to cover the costs associated with the plans adopted.”

The base rate for water went from \$11 to \$11.77 and the sewer base rate increased \$1 per month to \$12.

The city website has links to ordinances as well as city council and board agendas and minutes: www.copperascovetx.gov.

Commercial growth in Lampasas continues to boom

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Strengthening the local workforce has continued to be a priority for the city of Lampasas.

LISD's Career and Technical Education program expanded under its director Randy Brady, who was hired in January 2017.

The high school now offers 74 sections of CTE classes, compared to 43 the previous year. Some of the new courses include programming, culinary arts and forensics. The Lampasas County Higher Education Center offers a variety of career-training programs, with area residents being given the opportunity to pursue professional certifications without leaving Lampasas. In partnership with Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas, LCHEC offers courses in several academic fields, which have ranged from microbiology to fine art appreciation.

One of LCHEC's major areas of focus is allied health career preparation, but in the fall of 2017 it began offering the Information Technologies Technician course. This course was designed to certify students in various computer

hardware setups, network, security and troubleshooting — enabling students to gain entry to job fields such as system or network administrators, help desk technicians, and Security Officer level 1. The following year will bring more educational diversity to LCHEC through a partnership with Independent Electrical Contractors of Central Texas in the form of an electrician apprenticeship program.

The city has been growing residentially and commercially, as well. City of Lampasas Building Official Bryan Ellis reported that 37 residential permits were issued in Lampasas between February 2017 and February 2018.

In terms of commercial growth, one of Lampasas' largest employers, Oil States Industries, broke ground in September on a 42,200-square-foot expansion just south of its existing building.

New tech company, Builder Homesite, Inc., closed on an expansion in its new building at 105 S. Key and has continued to provide technology and marketing solutions across a range of industries, while diversifying local job opportunities.

Multiple businesses came to Lampasas in 2017, including The Shoppe on Key, Chick Pool



COURTESY | LAMPASAS EDC

Oil States Industries broke ground in September on a 42,200 square foot expansion just south of its existing building in Lampasas.

& Spa, Lucy Suz, Rocky River RV Resort, The Cake Lady, Broken Fork Restaurant, Centex Cryotherapy, Roll-Call Security & Communications and Putters & Gutters Family Fun Center.

The Keystone Hotel, a local landmark built between 1856 and 1870, was purchased by an Austin man with a lifelong interest in historic buildings. Over the years it was known as the Gracy Hotel and the Star Hotel, along with its more familiar name. Andy Fish purchased the 8,620-square-foot building and its 0.419-acre property with plans to renovate the building, mainly for private use, while preserving its most historic features. The structure has not been used commercially

since the closing of Lampasas Federal Savings in the 1990s, but the community is happy to see this landmark come back to life.

The Lampasas Economic Development Corporation continued improvements to infrastructure in 2017. In response to multiple internet outages over the summer, the LEDC sent out a request-for-proposal and selected Foresite Group, Inc. out of Austin to assess the City's technology infrastructure and develop a plan for improvements. The current provider, AT&T, has committed to designing and constructing an alternate fiber route in order to provide solutions for redundancy.

New Coryell County Jail not yet in the works

BY JOSH SULLIVAN
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The question is not whether Coryell County can afford to build a new jail, it's whether the county can afford to staff a new jail.

Coryell County Commissioner Kyle Matthews said the amount of staff it would take to fill a new jail would cause the tax rate to go up.

"We're at a stand still of where we need to grow, eventually we're going to have to. We're going to need it."

As of Feb. 1, 76 beds in the Coryell County were occupied,

That leaves none open, and the county contracted with Milam County to house inmates at its jail. As of February, there are 46 Coryell County prisoners held in Milam County. That puts the Milam County Jail at 82 percent capacity.

"Sometimes it's just better to contract something out," Matthews said. "I'd love to keep all of our money in county, but to try and not raise that debt ceiling on the taxpayers, that's kind of where we're at now."

The new Coryell County Jail would cost \$1.3 million to build,

according to Matthews. When you factor in the cost of staff, electricity, water and food for the inmates, that price tag could double right from the start.

It costs the county less than the budgeted \$758,000 to send those 46 inmates to Milam County, a price that Matthews described as "a great rate." Coryell County has benefitted from Milam County overbuilding its jail, Matthews said.

The new jail is not out of the picture totally, however. The county commissioners have met with the building contractors

several times to discuss the possible designs, and to seek a foolproof way of adding on to the building in the future without disrupting the jail's population during construction.

"There's no doubt we're talking about it," Matthews said.

As of Feb. 1, there were 80 pretrial felons and 10 pretrial misdemeanor offenders housed in the jail, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards monthly report. The jail is at 83 percent capacity.

Lampasas County growing; jail construction to begin

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Lampasas County is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds each year, with the Lampasas County appraiser's office reporting strong business growth in the area compared to the previous year.

"After appraisals we completed for 2017, the county had \$24,704,920 total value of new construction," Lampasas County Appraiser Melissa Gonzales said. "Currently for 2018, the total new construction is at \$21,046,700 and the appraisers will be in the field to the end of March, so our new construction should be up from last year, as it has been increasing in the last several years." The appraisers are in the field beginning in August, according to Gonzales.

Lampasas County Judge Wayne Boultinghouse is stepping down from the position at the end of the current term, allowing a newcomer to take the position after the upcoming election.

"I'm retiring for two reasons: One, the wife likes to travel, and I want to be free to do that, and two, I'll be 76," Boultinghouse said. I first became judge Jan. 1, 2007. It's been an enjoyable 12 years, but I want to be able to enjoy my retirement."

Larry W. Allison and Randy Hoyer will compete in a May 22 runoff election for the county judge's seat. Allison received 43.09 percent of vote with 1,374 votes, and Hoyer got 42.18 percent with 1,345 votes.

Jamie Smart and Ron Farr will have a runoff election for the Precinct 2 county commissioner seat. Smart pulled 38.9 percent of ballots with 473 votes, and Farr got 32.57 percent with 396 votes.

Also in a runoff are Edith Wagner Harrison and Trina Wykes Hudson, for the position of district clerk. Harrison drew 35.5 percent of the vote with 1,103 votes, and Hudson got 32.28 percent with 1,003 votes.

NEW JAIL

Progress is proceeding smoothly on construction of the new county jail, according to Lampasas County Sheriff Jesus "Jess" Ramos.

"We just opened the bids for construction (Feb. 23), so when those come back in, hopefully, construction will begin soon," Ramos said. "The original plan was to have the new jail open by 2019, so I hope we can break ground by the end of March or the beginning of April."

The proposed jail facility is estimated to cost \$18 million, and would be south of the city of Lampasas on U.S. Highway 183. County voters chose to approve the building of a new county jail in a bond election May 6, 2017, with 855 votes for and 523 votes against. The new jail is slated to be a 112-bed facility, which will greatly reduce overcrowding when compared to the current 37-bed jail.

Ramos said the jail commonly houses 20 to 25 inmates in other county jails because the current facility is so often at capacity.



HERALD | FILE

Cars are seen in June outside the Lampasas County Jail, which shares space with the Lampasas County Sheriff's Department.

Tech programs continue to grow in LISD

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Lampasas Independent School District has made great strides in its technological initiatives, and students, parents and teachers are all benefitting.

One of the district's biggest technology pushes is the iBadger technology initiative. The program was started as a way to supply all students in the school district with iPads.

"We set a goal to further extend the iBadger 1:1 technology initiative to include the ninth grade this year," district Superintendent Chane Rascoe said. "Thanks to the work of our great staff, we were able to extend the 1:1 initiative to the entire high school campus including all grades 9-12."

The district has also been making strides to improve its Career Technical Education program. The program has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment

and students being trained, educated, and certified in areas never offered before.

"We now have students who are working to obtain the skills needed to become job ready upon graduating high school," Rascoe said. "We are very pleased with the progress and have future plans to expand our (CTE) program even more next year."

The elementary school campuses also report progress in early literacy.

"The Read On Lampasas program started last year and was a tremendous success," Rascoe said. "So far this year, we have increased funding for the purchase of additional reading materials and supplies, set clear expectations for each campus, conducted staff trainings, and provided students with incentives to further improve the reading performance of our kids."

LISD serves nearly 3,400 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

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The Spur Capital of Texas continues growth

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Being the county seat for Coryell County isn't Gatesville's only claim to fame.

The city is also known as the Spur Capital of Texas, for good reason. Donated in 1991, the Loyd and Madge Mitchell Collection of about 10,000 pairs of spurs, is thought to be the largest collection in the world.

Gatesville has other assets and continues its growth in a variety of areas.

City leaders have begun the process of developing a new Comprehensive Plan for the city. Benchmark Planning, a highly respected planning company from Charlotte, North Carolina, is assisting the city in this process.

Residents have been invited to take part in two discussion sessions and have completed a survey to determine the areas of greatest needs and interest to the residents.

The results of the survey are currently being assessed to determine next steps. According to City Manager Bill Parry, the goal is to end up with a plan that will guide the city as it looks to future expansion and development.

Coryell Memorial Healthcare System, based in Gatesville, is in the midst of a \$42 million renovation

and expansion project. The plan is to renovate and add facilities across almost every part of the health care system's 117,000 square feet.

A new 25-bed hospital will be added to the current campus and a 16-bed medical therapy wing will be constructed at The Meadows Rehabilitation and Long-term Care facility.

The project is expected to be complete during the summer.

Within the past year, the health care system added pulmonary rehabilitation and cardiac rehabilitation programs, hired a full time cardiologist and added a psychiatrist nurse practitioner to their team.

Over the past year, Gatesville Independent School District completed a strategic planning process in which students, parents, teachers, community representatives, and business leaders worked tirelessly to establish the district's mission, beliefs, and goals for the future. Since the plan's adoption in July 2017, GISD staff members have been working diligently to initiate elements of the strategic plan. The district continues to focus on aligning an engaging and rigorous curriculum that focuses heavily on literacy. The district has also invested in state-of-the-art equipment and supplies



COURTESY OF | NAME

Coryell Memorial Healthcare System expands its facilities with completion set for summer.

for Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses such as welding and animal science, while strengthening partnerships with local businesses to provide practicum opportunities for students.

Providing additional technology resources to students in order to make instruction more relevant and engaging has also become a priority. A Grow Your Own program has been introduced to recruit and retain high-performing teachers. GISD students continue to excel in academics, athletics, fine arts, and

other extra-curricular activities.

Some new visitor-related businesses have come to Gatesville in the past year. The Hidden Valley RV Getaway, a 63-acre recreational vehicle park, opened at 246 Farm-to-Market 116. The Bed and Breakfast opened at 327 E. Main St. Peacock Cabins, 1804 South St., also offers accommodations for travelers.

The Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau has a new website, as well, where a lot of information is available: www.visitgatesvilletx.com.

Kempner's low taxes attract residents

BY JULIE A. FERRARO
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The city of Kempner is located between Copperas Cove and Lampasas on U.S. Highway 190. In August 2017, the city celebrated its 20th anniversary since its incorporation.

Despite being a relatively small community with a population of just under 1,100, Kempner continues to be a draw for families looking for a more rural lifestyle.

Businesses also continue to eye

the area for new development, marking it as a town for potential growth. More than 15 businesses currently call the small city home and the city hopes to draw more to the area with its newly established Reinvestment Zone and its Tax Abatement and Economic Development Policy.

A new mini mall with numerous stores, as well as some apartment buildings, will be built in 2018, located on U.S. Highway 190 across from The Brick Oven, Kempner's German restaurant. The Brick Oven continues to draw sizeable crowds with its authentic German cuisine and hand-made pizza. The Taqueria Express, a small Mexican restaurant with a drive-

thru, also draws its share of customers with good food and a friendly staff.

The latest business addition is a new automobile repair shop, Fans Automotive, that opened on the corner of Farm-to-Market 2808 and U.S. Highway 190.

The city of Kempner's first woman mayor, Carolyn Crane, was elected in May 2015 and continues to serve in that position. The City Council is composed of five elected members. Clifton Morse, Robert McKinnon, Bob Crane, David Richardson and Melba Vandever hold Places 1-5, respectively.

The city doubled the number of employees in its police

department this past year. The officers continue to work to keep our community safe.

Kempner has very low taxes, which is a draw for those interested in purchasing property there, but no new building permits were issued in 2017. Most of those moving into the area move into existing homes.

Kempner continues to sell stones to honor veterans for the park's "Wall of Honor." The stones honor any veteran from any state who participated in a war for our country, including the Civil War. The wall has quite a few stones now, with a lot of veterans' children buying stones to honor their parents who served.



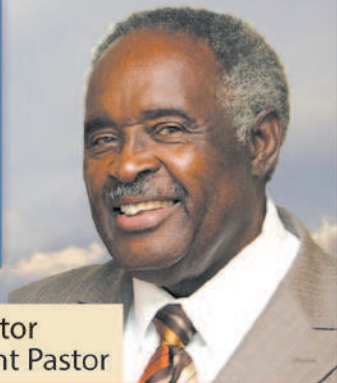
RELIGION

Westside Baptist Church



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service	8:00 a.m. & 10:55 a.m.
Evening Service	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Thursday Choir Practice	6:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning Prayers	5:00 a.m.



Rev. Hallie Tolbert, Jr. Pastor
Rev. Alfonzo Leathers, Sr. Assistant Pastor

711 Stagecoach Rd, Killeen, TX 76542 (254) 628-1004

ADVENTIST

- Iglesia Adventista
3705 Zephyr Rd, K 394-9980
- New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church
4602 Clear Creek, K 554-7113
- Killeen Seventh-day Adventist Church
4700 E Rancier, K 699-6263

ANGLICAN

- Christ the King Anglican Church (ACNA)
273 Country Rd 4877, CC 394-0798

APOSTOLIC

- Apostolic Faith Tabernacle
3301 E Rancier Suite 102B, K 721-8296
- Church of Jesus Christ House of Prayer
200 N Gray St, K 554-7551
- Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of
the Apostolic Faith, Inc,
519 S Pearl St., Belton 254-613-4591
- Jesus Name Apostolic Ministry
314 Casa Drive, CC 547-8358
- New Life Church
702 N 8th St, K 618-5223
- New Apostolic Church
1207 Metropolitan Dr, K
www.newapostolicchurch.org
- New Harvest Apostolic Ministries
612 Gray St, K 383-5228
- Temple Of Faith Apostolic Ministries
808 N 8th St, K (254) 247-1904

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

- Betel Asamblea De Dios
413 N 8th, K 634-3772
- Bethel Temple Assembly of God
3102 S Hwy, 195, K 526-2003
- First Assembly of God
502 N 38th St., K 699-1954
- First Assembly of God
2205 FM 3046, CC 547-3724
- First Assembly of God
1601 S Harley, HH 699-4114
- First Assembly of God
2514 E Hwy 190, L (512) 556-5185
- First Assembly of God
209 W Hallmark, K 200-9356
- First Samoan Assembly of God
502 N 38th St., Killeen (254) 371-0347
- Five Hills Assembly of God
302 E Avenue D, CC 547-9155
- Full Gospel Killeen Church
1410 S Trimmier, K 526-9048
- Korean Full Gospel Killeen Church
1410 S Trimmier, K 526-7777
- Korean Full Gospel New Light Church
112 E Hallmark Ave, K 628-1116
- New Beginnings Assembly
Corner of Hwy 190 and Indian Trail

BAPTIST

- Anchor Of Hope Baptist Church
5700 FM 439, B 939-6044



HERALD | FILE | HERALD

Church members gather Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, at First Baptist Church in Killeen to remember the Rev. Billy Graham, who died Wednesday Feb. 21, 2018, at age 99.

- Bethel Baptist Church
508 Jasper Dr, K
- Bible Way Baptist Church
2306 S FM 116, CC 547-8584
- Calvary Independent Baptist Church
13341 State Hwy 195, Killeen TX 76542
- Central Korean Baptist Church
1200 Old FM 440, K 526-8840
- Clear Creek Baptist Church
CC 547-2006 2.5 miles south on FM 2657
- Cedar Valley Baptist
FM 2843, Salado
- Community Baptist Church
Hwy 195 & Briggs Rd, K
- Cornerstone Baptist Church
484 FM 3219, K 690-4114
- Cross Road Missionary Baptist Church
1212 East Veterans Memorial Blvd
HH 254-535-3322
- East Lake Baptist Church
3213 Lake Rd., K 690-4400
- East Side Baptist Church
500 N W.S. Young, K 634-0358
- Eastside Baptist Church
1202 MLK Jr Dr, CC 547-3401
- Fairview Baptist Church
1202 Veteran's Ave, CC 547-3421
- First Baptist Church of Harker Heights
Ann Blvd & Ruby, HH 699-9184
- First Baptist Church of Copperas-Cove
300 W Avenue B, CC 547-3717
- First Baptist Church of Killeen
3310 S W.S. Young Dr, K 634-6262
- First Baptist Church
US Hwy 190, Kempner 512-932-3195
- First Baptist Church of Trimmier
E Trimmier and Chapparral Rd, K 634-9717
- First Community Baptist Church
1320 Georgetown Rd, CC
- Freedom Baptist Church
102 Northern Dove Ln, CC 518-0074
- Good News Baptist Church
204 W Avenue B, K 634-0497
- God's Way Community Baptist Church
700 Whitlow Dr, K 690-0005
- Grace Baptist Church 947-5917
- Greater Gethsemane Missionary Baptist
Church
4213-A East Veterans Memorial, 535-4908
- Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church
4201 S Zephyr Rd, K 680-4378
- Holy Light United Baptist Church
1602 S Main, CC
- Holy One Baptist Mission
211 E Avenue C, K 519-3990
- The Homecoming
10060 E Trimmier Rd, K 833-6359
- Killeen Baptist Temple
508 Jasper, K 526-4410
- Killeen Korean United Baptist Church
4103 Zephyr Rd, K 690-2233
- Korean Memorial Baptist Church
113 S 8th St, K
- Korean Mission First Baptist
N 5th & Avenue B, CC 547-3717
- Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
7512 E Trimmier Rd, K, 501-9193
- Lawler Baptist Church
FM 2843 & CR 230, (254) 793-2414
- Liberty Community Church
3002 Gus Dr, K 526-0114
- Liberty House Church
412 N 8th St, K (254) 680-3584
- Light of Christ Missionary Baptist Church
307 East Avenue D, K, 254-634-9620
- (Pastor Casey Jones Sr. - 554-5475
- Lifeway Fellowship
4001 E Elms Rd at Stan Schleuter Lp
- Marlboro Heights Missionary Baptist
2901 Illinois, K 690-4521
- 801 R.A Abercrombie Dr, K 690-4526
- Memorial Baptist Church
4001 Trimmier, K, 634-6882
- Missiona Bautista
54th & Turner K 699-5852
- Mountain View Baptist Church
Corner of FM 2410 & Cedar Knob
- Native American Baptist Fellowship Church
6161 S 5th St, Temple 721-5758
- New Jerusalem International Baptist
Church
515 E Veterans Memorial Blvd Ste B,
HH 432-6402

- Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W FM 93, Belton 939-8367
- NorthSide Baptist Church
1800 W Hwy 190, Nolanville 690-6722
- Oak Hill Baptist Church
FM 2657 and Boys Ranch Rd, CC 547-4623
- Pershing Park Baptist Church
1200 Old FM 440, K 634-1013
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana
4102 Turner Ave & 54th St, K 634-0486
- Red Sea Baptist Church
1004 North 18th St, K 628-8999
- Robertson Ave Baptist Church
305 E Roberston Ave, CC 547-3155
- Second Street Baptist Church
1602 N 2nd St, K 690-2886
- Simmonsville Missionary Baptist Church
509 S 42nd St, K 699-1956
- Skyline Baptist Church
906 Trimmier, K 699-4479
- Southern Hills Baptist Church
South FM 116, CC 547-0009
- Sunset Baptist Church
814 W Avenue C, K 634-5055
- Tabernacle Baptist Church
6601 S Ft Hood St, K 554-2920
- Thy Word is Truth Christian Ministries
Missionary Baptist
1803 Sherman Dr, K, 254-526-8310
- Trinity Baptist Church
403 FM 2410, HH 699-4436
- Triple 7 Baptist Fellowship
1501 Riverside Dr, K 254-290-1552
- Westside Baptist Church K 628-1004
- Westview Missionary Baptist Church-ABA
1102 W Main St, G 404-2316
- Unity Missionary Baptist Church
903 N 1st, CC
- Youngsport Baptist Church
Rt 2, Box 94, RM 2484, K 616-2484



VAL VALDEZ | HERALD

Dr. Jannette Miller, senior pastor, Harker Heights United Methodist Church, leads a special prayer session Sunday at the site of the church's future home. The acreage is located on Farm-to-Market 2410, about two miles past Harker Heights High School.

BIBLE CHURCH

- Grace Bible Church
1203 Winkler Ave, K 690-1728
- Instituto Biblico Hosanna
205 E Hallmark Ave Suite B, K 953-1113
- Killeen Bible Church
4717 Westcliff Rd, K 690-4748
- Maranatha Bible Institute
Harker Heights, 699-8400

BUDDHIST

- Wat Pah Samarkki
20905 State Highway 195, K 793-3713
- SGI-USA - Killeen Activity Center
116 E Avenue D, Killeen 554-6960

CAO DAI

- Cao Dai Temple of Harker Heights
127 E Ruby Rd, HH 699-5074

CATHOLIC

- Red Team Chapel/58th St. Chapel

Corner of 58th & Battalion, 288-6548

- Holy Family Catholic Church
1001 Georgetown Rd, CC 547-3735
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
2903 E Rancier, K 634-7878
- St. Paul Chong Hasang Catholic Church
1000 E FM 2410, HH 698-4110

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLE OF CHRIST)

- Cantico Nuevo
1801 Rancier, Killeen 258-2958
- Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1301 Trimmer, K 526-2179
- Copperas Cove Christian Church
(Disciple of Christ)
1908 Morrow D.C.C. 547-2486
- Iglesia Cristiana Sinai
701 E Stan Schlueter Lp, K 628-1539

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- Deliverance and Praise Temple Church of
God in Christ

- 702 Harley Dr, 699-4346
- Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1301 S Trimmier, K 526-2179
- Copperas Cove Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
1908 Morrow Dr, CC 547-2486
- Cove English Ministries
909 Industrial Ave, CC 254-238-8019
- Crestview Independent Christian Church
2608 S FM 116, CC 547-4013
- Deliverance Ministries, Household of
Faith, Church of the Living God, Inc.
329 Indian Trail, HH 519-4659
- The Fellowship of Praise & Worship
301-A S Main St, CC 458-8429
- House of Refuge Ministries
908 Highland Ave, K 213-0465
- Iglesia Cristiana Sinai
701 E Stan Schlueter Lp, K 628-1539
- Iglesia Cristiana Misionera A.I.C.
1801 Nathan Dr, K 633-6230
- Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida
3709 Zephyr Rd, K 680-4422
- Iglesia Cristiana Uncion y Poder
313 S 1st St, CC 518-4452
- Min. Divina Misericordia
205 E Hallmark Ave Suite B, K 953-1113
- Restoration Christian Church
Upstairs National Bank, CC 520-5419
- Samoan Christians Fellowship Assembly
406 N 4th St, K 542-3792, 628-5449
- Samoan Congregational Christian
1st Cav. Div. Memorial Chapel, FH
- Solid Rock Family Christian Center
340A Copperas Cove Plaza, CC 518-1411

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

- Christian Science
Cowan Amenity Ctr, 1433 Cool Spring Way
Sun City - Georgetown, 512-943-4784

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Central Union Church of Christ
100 W Avenue G, Nolanville, 698-0313
- Church of Christ
400 N W.S. Young Dr, K 634-7373
- Church of Christ, 306 W Avenue E, CC
- Church of Christ
Cemetery Rd, Kempner
- Church of Christ Iglesia Ni Cristol
508 E Jasper Dr, K
- College View Church of Christ
123 Yates Rd, K (at Reese Creek Rd)
290-3541
- Leon Church of Christ
4404 Twin City Blvd, Belton 939-0682
- Southside Church of Christ
1505 Trimmier, K 526-3041
- Westside Church of Christ
152 Westside Church Rd, K 554-6711
- Youngsport Church of Christ
Youngsport, 245-9715

CHURCH OF GOD

- Christo-Vision Ministries
201 Avenue C, K 690-8200
- Abundant Life Church of God
1210 Florence Rd, K 526-4598
- Church of God
The True Vine, 211 Avenue D, Killeen
- End Time Church of God
Rt. 7, Box 7252, Twin Lakes Estates Belton
939-0326
- Deliverance Church of God (Cleveland, TN)
1618 Veterans Blvd, CC 518-3181
- Community Life Chapel
Developing Community Leaders
254-415-2414
- West End Church of God in Christ
3601 South W.S. Young Dr, Killeen
254-213-5511

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

- Agape Church of God in Christ
3000 Little Nolan Rd, K 690-7729
- Bibleway Church of God in Christ
300 Jasper Rd, K 213-9134
- Bountiful New Life Church of God in Christ
115 East Avenue E, CC 547-5007
- Deliverance and Praise Temple C.O.G.I.C
702 Harley Dr, HH 699-4346
- First Church of God in Christ
5201 Westcliff Rd, K 953-3100
- Garden of Gethsemane
111 Cox Dr, HH 690-5733
- God's Holy Tabernacle Church of God in
Christ 500 S 44th St, K
- New Bethel Christian Worship Center
4013-A Stan Schlueter Lp, K 368-6400
- Power House
110 FM 2410 Suite A, HH 699-2127
- Trinity Cathedral Church of God in Christ
1312 George Town Road, CC 547-5493



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Rev. Mike Tracy of the New Beginnings Church delivers the sermon "No Thanks" during the annual Community Thanksgiving Service at the Harker Heights United Methodist Church on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017.

COWBOY

- 5 Hills Cowboy Church
139 CR 4630 Kempner, TX 290-6005
- Maxdale Cowboy Church
FM 2670 & Wolfridge Rd, Maxdale, TX,
254-368-2563
- Soldiers of the Cross Cowboy Fellowship
14788 Hwy 439, Nolanville
Pastor Danny Brey - 462-8890

EASTERN ORTHODOX

- Eastern Orthodox
Call Father Paul Anderson at 254-768-7649
for service times, dates and locations.

EPISCOPALIAN

- Darnall Army Hospital FH 288-8850
- St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2800 Trimmier, K 634-7474
- St. Martin's Episcopal Church
1602 South FM 116, CC 547-0331
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
4th & Chestnut, Lampasas 556-5433

FULL GOSPEL

- Bountiful Blessing Full Gospel Ministries
608 S Ann St, HH 220-8899
- Grace Bible Fellowship
718 N 2nd St, K 628-2111
- First Samoan Full Gospel Pentecostal
Church Inc.
2602 S FM 116, CC 245-2700 or 638-2900

- Full-Gospel Baptist Church
Call for information 634-0940
- New Testament Christian Church
3500 Florence Rd, K 526-2149
- The Potter's House
Corner of 10th & Avenue C, CC 547-7918

HEBRAIC ROOTS

- B'nai Yisrael
2006 S 57th St, T 598-2135

HOLINESS

- Divine Faith Ministry Holiness Church
2201 W Stan Schlueter Lp, K 680-7951

HOME & CELL CHURCHES

- Association of Home Churches
For location nearest to you, call 690-5856

INDEPENDENT

- 1st CD Memorial Chapel
FH, 287-6114
- 4 ID Memorial Chapel
FH, 287-5334
- 13th COSCOM Chapel
FH, 287-3090
- 33rd Street Chapel
FH 287-7262
- 68th Street Chapel
FH 287-6805
- 76th Street Chapel
FH 287-5835

- Blackhorse Chapel
FH 287-1635
- Casa De Oracion-Asambe Dios
313 S 8th St, K 634-3772
- Cornerstone Ministry
Nolanville 698-2055
- Full Gospel Killeen Church English Con-
gregation
(Multi-Purpose Education & Activity Center)
1410 Trimmier Rd, 499-7689
- Killeen Bible Church
4717 Westcliff, K 690-4748
- Protestant Women of the Chapel
Comanche Chapel, FH Diane Kohl 542-7042
- Old Post Chapel
FH, 288-6545
- Post Chapel
FH, 287-5283-2642
- Post (Comanche) Chapel
FH, 288-6544
- West Fort Hood Chapel
(Praise Service) FH 288-9219
- 1401 Elm Rd, K 634-6990

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

- Bell County Faith Fellowship & Christian
Life Center
4705 E Rancier Ave, K 681-1085
- North Pointe Church
1115 N Main St, CC 547-7470
- St. John's Faith Outreach Baptist Church
3507 Cranford Ave, K 768-7946

ISLAMIC FAITH

- The Islamic Community of Greater Killeen
5800 S Fort Hood Rd, K, 634-8799, 634-1990

JEWISH

- Jewish Community Fort Hood
The Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel Campus, Tank Destroyer & 31st St, FH 254-287-3411
- Congregation Simcha Sinai
102 Cattail Circle, HH 231-4930

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2nd & Mary Jane, K 526-3013
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1502 Virginia, CC 547-1248
- Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Hillcrest Rd, Temple 547-7850

LUTHERAN

- Abiding Savior WELS
458 Turkey Trot Killeen, 953-4442
- Faith Lutheran Church LCMS
Old Austin Rd. & Sunflower, Lampasas
512-556-3514
- Fort Hood Lutheran Fellowship
Old Post Chapel, 761st Tank Destroyer Blvd 512-556-3514
- Grace Lutheran Church LCMS
Trimmier & Bacon Ranch Rd, K 634-5858
- Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA
3801 Cunningham Rd, K 634-2772
- Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS
922 Lutheran Church Rd, CC 547-3498
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1215 South Wall, Belton 939-0824
- Trinity Lutheran Church
Hwy 190 & Morris, CC 547-2225

METHODIST

- Adams Chapel AME Church
125 Ario, HH 699-3435
- Anderson Chapel AME Church
1002 Jefferies, K 690-5030
- Refuge Park
3601 Edgefield St, K 616-1664
- First United Methodist Church Killeen
3501 E Elms Rd, Killeen 634-6363
www.fumckilleen.com
- First United Methodist Church
302 E Curry St, F 793-2535
- Grace United Methodist Church
S Main & Avenue F, CC 547-3729
- Harker Heights United Methodist Church
Cardinal & Harley, HH 699-6271
- Hillside Evangelical Methodist Church
2602 S FM 116, CC
- Kempner United Methodist Church



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

Coach Thomas Henderson of Huston-Tillotson University speaks Monday, Jan. 15, 2018, during the 20th annual, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Service at the Bible Way Missionary Baptist Church in Copperas Cove.

- Hwy 190, Kempner 512-932-3011
- Nolanville United Methodist Church
300 W Avenue I, Nolanville
- Pidcoke United Methodist Church
11230 FM 116, Gatesville 254-598-6094
- St. Luke United Methodist Church
102 E Church Ave, K 526-3993, 526-5234
- St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
Florence and Fowler, K 634-7721
- Thomas Chapel AME Church
901 N Main, CC
- Refuge Ministries
Rev. Deanna Ranes, 4406 FM 1113, CC
547-3349

NAZARENE

- Belton First Church of the Nazarene
1701 Sparta Rd, 939-3404
- First Church of the Nazarene
951 Stagecoach, K 634-7676
- First Church of the Nazarene
W Hwy 190, CC 547-4032
- Antioch Fellowship Ministries
Church of God & Christ
210 W Mary Jane, K 634-2101

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

- Abundant Life Christian Church
Amazing Grace Fellowship
1600 E Rancier Ave, K 290-0403
- Agape Christian Center
321 N Penelope, Belton 939-9673
- Bethesda Fellowship Ministries
1803 Pecan Cove, CC 547-3455
- Beyond the Veil Ministries
1801 N 8th St, K 628-0145
- Calvary Christian Fellowship of Georgetown
Dell Pickett Elementary School
1100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Georgetown
512-888-8892
- Carinthian Christian Church
Rte 2 Box 65 D, CC 547-3755
- Central Texas Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2301 E Central Texas Expy, K 638-0077
Service Info: davinvermont@gmail.com
- Chapel by the Lake
Oakalla Road, K
- Christian House of Prayer
916 W 190 CC 526-7021
- 3300 E Stan Schlueter Lp, K 526-7021
Common Ground Ministry
1600 E Rancier Ave, K 383-4705
www.commongroundministry.org
- Deliverance Ministries, Household of Faith, Church of the Living God, Inc
329 Indian Trail, HH 690-0856
- Destiny World Outreach Center
101 N.W.S. Young Dr, Killeen 519-4659

- Disciples Church
Meets at Easter Hills Middle School -
300 Indian Trail, HH
www.MakeDisciplesNow.org
- Divine Grace Ministries
205 E Avenue C, K 458-0146
- Exalted Praise Worship Center
600 Indian Trail Suite 201, HH 466-0749
- Excellent Covenant Powerhouse Ministries
4103 Zephyr Rd, K 699-6920
- Faith Christian Center
103 E Mockingbird Dr, HH 519-3226
- Faith Community Church
3705 Zephyr Rd, K 254-338-8777
- Faith Tabernacle
812 Harley at Beeline, HH 394-0572
- Family Dominion Ministries Inc.
PO Box 11143, K 520-4269
- For Whosoever Will
3310 Florence Road, K 512-932-2716
- Fully Persuaded Church of Reconciliation
602 Gray Street 526-2100
- Gift of Life Ministry
5802 Wedel Cemetery Rd
Heiden Heimer, TX 983-1911
- God's TrueVine House of Worship
906 South Ann Blvd, HH, TX 338-2872
- Grace Abound Tabernacles
10th Street, Nolanville, 698-9910

- Grace Awakening Church
5400 East Veterans Memorial, K 554-2500
- Grace Bible Church
1203 Winkler Ave, Killeen 690-1728
- Grace Christian Center
1401 Elm Rd, K 634-6990
- Grace Ministries Apostolic Church
3119 Commerce St, K
- Greater Love Outreach Ministry
3603B E Veterans Memorial Blvd, K 634-2879
- Greater Vision Community Church
2000 E Stan Schlueter Lp, K 200-4382
- Guiding Light Ministries
524 Shady Drive, Suite A & B, K 690-0198
- Harker Heights Community Church
425 E Cen Tex Expwy, HH 289-3861
- Harvest of Prayer
605 W Avenue G, Temple 254-547-8877
- Killeen Christian Fellowship
803 E Central Texas Expressway 723-6414
- Knowledge is Power Ministry
815 Florence Rd, Killeen 634-3463
- Iglecia Cristiana Jehova Es Mi Pastor
805 Hall St, Killeen 554-2147
- Iglesia Divina Misericordia
205 Suite B, Hallmark Ave K 953-1113
- Joint-Heirs with Christ Ministries
219 E Avenue D, Killeen 526-0599
- Liberty Christian Center
801 N. 8th St., K 287-2470 415-7336
- Montessori Children's House School
Killeen, 699-104
- Movement of Faith International Ministries
810 W Rancier Ave Suite 100, K
- New Beginnings for All People
113 S 20th St, K 254-9004
www.NBIMINC.org
- New Bethel Christian Worship Center
1301 8th St, K 254-368-6400
- New Covenant Christian Church
104 County Road #221
Oakalla 547-5082
- New Covenant Ministries Worship Center
1340 E Knights Way, HH 247-7466
- New Life Fellowship
708 East Four, Belton 939-8011
- New Life Ministries
207 E Avenue C, Killeen 953-3179
- New Covenant Mission Outreach
3401 Zephyr Rd, Killeen 501-FIRE
- New Jerusalem Church
1209 Hillcrest Rd, Temple 985-2079
- New Vision Church of Fellowship
2517 Renee Ln, Copperas Cove 371-1179
- The People's Choice Worship Center
1104 N 4th St, K 690-2066
- Praise & Deliverance House of Prayer
315 Gray St. Killeen 289-2922
- Praise Fellowship Church
680-2983
- Precious People Ministry
319 N Gray, K & 702 Elm Road, K
- Rivers of Living Waters



ARIANNA FERRARO | HERALD

Rebekah Taylor, 6, and Shelby Hilliard, 13, admire some of the nativity scenes displayed Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, during the second annual Nativity Amazement event at the First United Methodist Church in Nolanville.

- 508 N Gray St, K 690-9673
- Ruach Life Ministries - City of Refuge
515 E Veterans Memorial Blvd, HH
- Shekinah Glory Worship Center
205 S 2nd St & Avenue E, CC 542-6100
- Southern Gospel Worship Center
501 W Elms Rd, K 702-2777
- Tabernacle of Praise
348 S 40th St, K, 702-1690
- Templo Victoria
514 E Avenue D, K 554-5371
- The Church of the New Commandment
997 Stagecoach Rd, K 681-0530
- The Home Full Gospel
1613 Illinois, K 699-0169
- The Salvation Army
501 N 2nd, K 634-7172
- Transforming Life Fellowship Ministries
4107 Westcliff Rd, 526-2997
- Trinity Worship Center
1802 Martin Luther King Blvd, CC
- True Gospel Church
1101 W Avenue E, K
- True Worship Ministries
103 E Mockingbird Ln, HH 690-8730
- True Deliverance Ministries
508 Hall Ave, K 634-7082
- Truth and Deliverance Ministries
203 S 2nd St, CC 514-2348
- Word of Knowledge Ministries
3629 E Veterans Memorial Blvd, K
501-9105
- Word of Life
1506 McCarthy Ave, K 634-7082
- World Outreach Church of Killeen
1100 Hwy 440
- United Faith Church
1101 N 1st, CC 547-8005
- Unity Church of Temple

- 12 S Main St, Temple 770-0070
- Universal Life Wiccan Church
107 E Avenue E, CC 542-1555
- Victory Life Family Church
1196 Amy, HH 368-8690
- Vineyard Christian Fellowship
East Hwy 36, Temple 778-2802
- Word of God Christian Fellowship
808 N 8th St, Killeen 690-3315

PENTECOSTAL

- Apostolic Faith "Living Water"
C.O.O.L.J.C. 62nd & Battalion, FH 547-1426
- Apostolic Temple Church
1408 N 4th Street, 680-3787
- Bethel Church
4307 E Hwy 190, K
- Christ Gospel Holiness Church
311 N Gray, K 628-6000
- Christ Gospel Apostolic Church
200 S Gray St. K 628-8000
- Church of Full Gospel
300-A W. Hallmark Ave, K 690-5361
- Faith Point Church
3504 E Centex Expressway, K 699-5231
- First Church in Harker Heights
2314 Indian Trail, HH 698-4660
- Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church of God
1704 N 38th, K 690-1011
- Iglecia Cristiana Jehova Es Mi Pastor
805 Hall St, K 554-2147
- Jesus Christ Apostolic Faith Temple Church
701 Sun Meadows Dr, HH 698-2000
- Jesus House of Prayer Apostolic Ministries
Suite 911-B, Trimmer Rd, K 213-8164
- Killeen Holiness Church
607 W Avenue G, K 634-5387
- The Lighthouse United Pentecostal Church
1411 N 38th St, K 519-1123

- Pentecostal Experience Holiness Church
309 W Avenue F, CC
- Potter's House
1306 E Rancier Ave, K 554-4120
- Rivers of Living Waters
508 N Gray St, K 690-9673
- Samoan First Assembly of God
502 N 38th St, K 554-2901
- Tabernacle of Praise Church, Inc.
5010 Trimmiettr Rd, K 526-4686
- True Deliverance Pentecostal Holiness
Church
524-C Shady Ln, K 245-6063/ 245-6099
- United Pentecostal Church of Copperas Cove
Pecan Cove Rd, CC 547-2264
- Saints Center of Copperas Cove
801 Industrial Ave, CC 542-3211

PRESBYTERIAN

- First Presbyterian Church
704 Martin Luther King Jr Dr, CC
542-4884
- First Presbyterian Church
2500 Church St., B 939-2115
- Hill Country Church (PCA)
Meeting at 4700 E Rancier, K 698-4950
- Presbyterian Church of Salado
105 Salado Plaza Dr, Salado 947-8106

TRANS DENOMINATIONAL

- Common Ground Ministries
1600 E. Rancier, K 383-4705

UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1726 Morgan's Point Road,
Morgan's Point 780-1008



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Area high school athletes show spirit

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

It was another year full of athletic success for Killeen area schools.

On the soccer pitch, the Salado Lady Eagles soccer team was co-district champion thanks in part to Annie Ewton, who broke the school scoring record with a 24-goal season.

The Kangaroos won the district track and field championship, and at the regional meet, Killeen senior Bobby Smith broke a 21-year old meet record in the discus with a throw measuring 199 feet, 10 inches. Smith went on to win a bronze medal in the event at the state meet.

Ellison triple jumper Jayden Smith, Gatesville distance runner Jordan Brock, Copperas Cove high jumper Josh Canete and Lampasas runner Cameron Everts also

competed at the state meet.

Down the road in Lampasas, the Badgers captured the program's third district track and field championship, and the Badgers baseball team snapped an 11-year playoff drought.

Gatesville's Canyon Carothers, Lampasas' Morris Wilkins and the Lady Badgers all competed at the state golf meet.

When the new school year began, the Lady Bulldawgs immediately started dominating the competition in volleyball, capturing an undefeated district championship.

In cross country, Salado freshman Jaci McGregor set a program record by posting a time of 11:53.29 at the state meet, resulting in a seventh-place finish. Additionally, the Lampasas Lady Badgers qualified for the meet for the first time as a team.

On the football field, Ellison qualified for the playoffs and Copperas Cove rebounded from missing the postseason last season to earn its 18th trip since 1998.

No Killeen ISD team won its first-round game, but that did not prevent multiple players from extending their careers a few months later during National Signing Day.

Among some of the notable football signees include Copperas Cove's Floyd Connell (Louisiana-Monroe), Ellison's Kipshaw Washington (Tarleton State), Ellison's Jyaire Shorter (North Texas), Gatesville's Derrick Bayer (Mary Hardin-Baylor), Harker Heights' Jameel Hodges (Texas-Permian Basin) and Ja'Quan Tillis (Trinity Valley Community College), Killeen's Marcellus Johnson (Lamar) and Shoemaker's Cameron Bausley (Fullerton College) and Trevion Jackson (San Angelo State).

Once basketball season began, Ellison dominated.

The Eagles and Lady Eagles each earned a district championship and spent much of the year in the state rankings.

En route to the playoffs, post



ANDY ZAVOINA | HERALD

Killeen High's Bobby Smith throws the discus at the UIL Track & Field State Championships on in Austin. Smith finished with a bronze medal.

Cielo McClain and guard Casey Armour were named all -district most valuable players for the Lady Eagles and Eagles, respectively. Additionally, Armour landed on the all-region team.

He was not alone, though, as Lampasas guard Kyle Sims was represented on the all-region team after helping the Badgers reach the playoffs under first-year head coach Aaron Nuckles.



ANDY ZAVOINA | HERALD

Ellison's Marliah Johnson, left, drives in for a shot against Waco Midway in January. Ellison won the District 8-6A title.



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UIL realignment creates 9-school district



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Copperas Cove Head Coach Cari Lowery.

BY FELISA CARDENAS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The University Interscholastic League released its biennial reclassification and realignment at the beginning of February, creating a nine-school district — the largest district ever implemented in Central Texas.

Four Killeen ISD high schools — Killeen, Ellison, Harker Heights and Shoemaker — will now comprise District 12-6A along with rivals from District 8-6A in Belton, Copperas Cove and Waco Midway.

Temple and Waco join the district after being moved up from Class 5A while San Angelo Central, which was a member of the Central Texas league in nonfootball sports basketball, soccer, baseball and softball, was rerouted toward Fort Worth.

District 12-6A will remain the same in all sports for the next two years.

In basketball, Killeen boys head coach Reggie Huggins has no problem welcoming old rivals Temple and Waco to District 12-6A.

“The two teams coming into district, we’ve played before, we’ve won,” he said. “So, if you want to go from a selfish point ... it might be good for us because we’ve beaten them here recently.

“But district play is a whole lot different than nondistrict games.” Copperas Cove volleyball head

coach Cari Lowery was pleased with the move from Region I to Region II.

In the last six to eight years, the state champion has come out of Region I, according to Lowery, and she hopes being in a new region will allow local teams to have a better chance at making longer runs in the playoffs.

“I’m happy that we are in Region II,” she said. “It’s a better fit for us in this district.”

Another change that comes with realignment is adjusting to a new schedule.

For Lowery’s volleyball team, it now has 16 league games instead of 12.

“That makes district considerably longer and eliminated the preseason,” she said. “We’re starting district before school even starts.”

With the odd number of teams creating a bye in the schedule, Huggins knows it will take some getting used to.

“Hopefully for you, your bye is at the right time, as it can really be helpful because you go scout and do different things.”

Huggins believes overall the UIL got it right this time with realignment.

“For us old, nostalgic people, it brings the district back together like it used to be a long, long time ago.”

Fort Hood family WMR plans entertainment for families

BY FELISA CARDENAS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The U.S. Army Fort Hood Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation has events planned in the coming months that everyone in the family can enjoy at a reasonable price.

Entertainment for the entire family is offered, as there is a variety of activities to attend, such as spring break campus for the kids, UFC fight watch parties and lifeguard or waterfront certification.

The watch parties are held for UFC fight tickets and allow you to catch all the action without paying a cover as it’s free and open to the public, 18 years and older.

Teens looking for a summer job as a lifeguard can add to their resume by taking the lifeguard and waterfront certification classes throughout the month of March and April.

Held at the Fort Hood Indoor Pool, classes are open to those 15 years and older. Lifeguard

certification costs \$150 or \$175 for the waterfront certificate.

There are prerequisites that applicants must be able to complete on the first day, including a two-minute tread and a timed brick.

Additional prerequisites are needed for the waterfront class and can be found online at <https://hood.armymwr.com/>.

Class sessions are scheduled on various weekends in the spring and throughout the summer.

The Fitness Centers on post are helping keep those New Year’s resolutions with personal fitness trainers to help you reach your goals.

One-on-one 60-minute sessions start at \$45 or 2-on-1 partner sessions are also available starting at \$70 for an hour session.

Every month you can find an updated, current listing of all Family and MWR activities happening on post listed online at <https://hood.armymwr.com/calendar/>.

Central Texas Exposition

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Arm Bands

\$20 Weekday (M,T,W,T)

\$30 Weekends (F,S,S)

Every Friday **Military Night-
Get in Free with military ID**

\$2.00 Tuesdays
Rides, Drinks, Hot Dogs & Popcorn
just \$1.00 each. Discounted arm bands



Killeen Special Events Center South W.S. Young Crabtree Amusements on Midway

UMHB has athletic, scholastic successes

HERALD STAFF REPORT

One year after capturing the national championship in football, Mary Hardin-Baylor delivered another stellar showing in 2017.

En route to reaching their second consecutive Stagg Bowl, the Crusaders won their 15th American Southwest Conference title in 20 seasons.

UMHB's unblemished run came to an abrupt end, however, in the NCAA Division III championship game as Mount Union won 12-0, snapping the Crusaders' 29-game win streak.

The Crusaders placed four players on the Associated Press Little All-American Division III Teams, and each was a First Team selection.

Corbin Campitelli and Bryce Wilkerson were placed on the First Team Offense, while Haston Adams and Kris Brown landed on the First Team Defense.

Despite the disappointing finish to the football campaign, there was plenty of reason to celebrate on campus.

In men's soccer, the Crusaders won the ASC Tournament to earn the first conference championship in program history. Additionally,

they won the ASC regular season title for just the second time.

Then, UMHB proceeded to reach the Sweet 16 after capturing the first postseason victories in team history.

The Crusaders finished the season ranked 16th in the country.

Their counterparts in the sport also had an impressive season, placing second at the ASC Tournament and making their debut at the national championships.

Along the way, UMHB also set a milestone by earning a spot in the United States Soccer Coaches Top 25.

In volleyball, the Crusaders finished the season with a 28-5 overall record and the ASC West Division championship. They proceeded to reach the ASC Championship Match, but lost to Texas-Dallas.

Natasha Evans and Miranda Klein were named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-West Region Team, while teammate Corinne Novak was named West Region Freshman of the Year.

The quartet of teams also produced three ASC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete award winners. Zane Boles received the distinction



MICHAEL MILLER

UMHB's Bryce Wilkerson (1) runs the ball during the NCAA Division III semifinal against Brockport in Belton.

in football, while Luke Lopez and Sarah Paolini were selected for men's soccer and women's volleyball, respectively.

Additionally, UMHB women's soccer standout Sarah Rempe was placed on the Distinguished

Scholar-Athlete Team.

The honors recognize student-athletes who achieve a high level of academic achievement (a 3.20 grade-point average or better) while competing as a starter or important reserve on their team.

BLORA can help you beat the heat

BY HERALD STAFF REPORT

Enjoy the cool weather while it is around because another long, hot Texas summer is rapidly approaching. Luckily, the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area is available to help beat the heat and enjoy the sun.

Boaters have access to 82 wet slips that can be rented, and there are two bass and carp boat ramps available with parking for cars, trucks and trailers. Boat and RV storage is also available by the day, week, month and year.

The Recreation Equipment

Checkout Center located within the garrison 14 miles southwest of BLORA, provides rentals, including kayaks, canoes, wakeboards, skis, kneeboards, tubes, camping equipment, pop-up/travel trailers and more.

Furnished cottages sleeping four or six people are available for rental. Each has a screened-in porch, barbecue grill, covered picnic table and bench swing, and each is located near a playground.

Multiple picnic and pavilions are available, and there are areas for camping.

There are horseback riding

trails, mountain bike trails of varying degrees of difficulty and a paintball course, where patrons can dual it out at an old Western town complete with bridge. There is also an urban area.

Weekend play is on a first-come, first-serve basis, but the course may be reserved during weekdays. The paintball course is open to those 10 years of age and older.

Communication, trust and leadership skills can all be tested at the team challenge course equipped with a 53-foot climbing wall, giant swing, towers, bridges and a zip line.

Additionally, BLORA provides archery and skeet shooting ranges.

Gate entry fee is \$3 per car for authorized Department of Defense patrons, while all civilians will pay \$10 per vehicle. BLORA also provides plenty of educational opportunities, including boater safety courses, to go along with a variety of services such as storage, skiing and paddle boats.

For more information on BLORA, go to <https://hood.armymwr.com/us/hood> or call (254) 287-4916.

Killeen offers plenty of recreation options

BY FELISA CARDENAS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Killeen Parks and Recreation Department continues to provide modern, family-friendly facilities with a growth in a variety of programs and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Athletic leagues that start in the summer, the CenTex race series, fitness classes, hike and bike trails, and the aquatics center are just a few of the activities the department offers in 2018.

Killeen Parks and Recreation gives local runners a chance to participate in the CenTex Race Series, which will offer 16 5k and 10k runs throughout the year in Killeen and nearby cities, such as Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, Temple and Belton.

Awards are given to overall male and female winners along with first place winners in each age category.

“When you look at the list of participants it’s pretty impressive to see how fast they run,” Executive Director of Communications Hilary Shine said, “but you’ll see that we break it down into age groups so participants can compete with their peers.”

Online registration is available for every race in the CenTex Race Series.

The department also offers two hike and bike trails.

The Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trail starts at the Killeen Community Center and is 2.5 miles long. The trail eventually may complete a series of trails linking Belton and Stillhouse Hollow lakes.

The trail at Lions Club Park opened in 2011 and loops around a playground and outdoor basketball courts. The trail is 1.5 miles long and is at 1600 E. Stan Schlueter Loop, which Shine said the city is working to install consistent sidewalks that lead to the trail.

While a new hike and bike path on the south side of town isn’t expected to open until 2020, Shine also added that the city is working on extending the road in order to continue to connect parks to people.



ARTIE PHILLIPS | HERALD

Children and parents play underneath cloudy skies March 4 at Lions Club Park in Killeen.

“They can ride their bike to go to Lions Park or Heritage Oaks but it’s those kinds of things too where we’re also trying, strategically as an organization, to figure out how to make people more mobile.

“Not necessarily driving mobile but these alternate modes of transportation.”

The Killeen Community Center is a multipurpose facility that offers a gym and meeting rooms, which can be rented to host anything from birthday and anniversary parties to receptions and meetings. The center also has an arts and crafts room that is available for group rentals.

Killeen Parks and Recreation also offers pavilions for rental at Long Branch Park, Conder Park, Lions Club Park, AA Lane Park, Marlboro Park and Maxdale Park for outdoor events like corporate picnics, family reunions, birthday parties and more.

Room and pavilion rental applications are available at killeentexas.gov.

The center also offers classes like zumba, indoor cycling and yoga among others. An increase in classes and programs occurs in the summer, according to Shine.

The Killeen Family Recreation Center is part of Lions Club Park and features the Tommie Harris Fitness Center, named after the former Ellison defensive tackle, who went on to star for the Chicago Bears.

Harris donated the gym equipment located on the second floor of the recreation center, where professional bodybuilders and casual lifters alike train each day.

The first floor offers two indoor basketball courts where residents and nonresidents can play.

The recreation center offers monthly, quarterly and annual membership fees for family, adult, senior and youth.

Childcare is provided to members at no additional charge.

The Killeen Family Aquatics Center is also part of Lions Club Park. The center offers day passes and season passes to residents and nonresidents and features a bathhouse, a 10,360 square foot multi-use pool, a 25-meter lap pool, three water slides, a bowl slide and a tot slide.

Killeen Parks and Recreation also offers Long Branch pool, at 1101 Branch Drive inside Long Branch Park. Both the Aquatic Center and Long Branch pool which will reopen during Memorial Day weekend.

Like the Killeen Family Aquatics Center, Long Branch Pool offers day and season passes, but pool passes are not valid at the Aquatics Center.

Killeen Parks and Recreation also offers two senior centers for people age 55 and older, one at Lions Club Park and one at the Bob Gilmore Senior Center at 2205 E. Veterans

Memorial Blvd. There is no fee to join either center, but certain activities will require members to purchase supplies.

The Bob Gilmore Center has yoga, dancing, movie nights, games, exercise, oil painting and many more activities.

The center also serves lunch at 11:30 a.m. every day at a cost of \$3 per person. Lunch also requires a reservation by noon the day before.

Killeen Parks and Recreation also offers a number youth and adult leagues.

The Tri-County Soccer Club offers teams for youth ages 4 to 14. The department also offers youth leagues for T-ball, softball, baseball and flag football as well as boys and girls basketball.

Registration for each of the leagues is available online at killeentexas.gov.

In addition to the youth leagues, Killeen Parks and Recreation also offers a number of adult leagues, including

basketball, softball, kickball, flag football, soccer and volleyball at Lions Club Park.

A full schedule of activities is expected to be released by the city in the coming weeks.

“We have two skate parks, we’ve got two Frisbee golf courses, our hike and bike trail so there’s a number of outdoor kind of activities that aren’t necessarily organized sports that kids can participate in as well,” Shine said.

Those interested in serving the community can participate in the Adopt-A-Park initiative where community volunteers participate in litter removal and maintenance of local parks.

“We also just opened up a lot of jobs, and so while it’s not necessarily entertainment, it’s going to open up life skills in teenagers who are preparing to go off to college or to the working world but being cognizant of their high school summer schedules,” Shine said.

Learn more about Killeen Parks and Recreation at killeentexas.gov or call 254-501-6390, 254-501-8889 or 254-286-2005.

Colleges, pro teams pick up local high school athletes

BY CLAY WHITTINGTON
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

No matter when or where the biggest games in professional or college sports are played, the greater Fort Hood area will have a hand in the outcome.

Whether it's the NFL, NBA or major college sports, alumni from various local high schools in the area have become stars and big-time players in the NCAA and professional ranks.

Copperas Cove graduates have represented the Bulldawgs in three of the last four Super Bowls as New England receiver Josh Boyce earned a championship ring in 2015 and Charles "Peanut" Tillman took part the following season despite being sidelined with an injury. Additionally, Class of 1995 Killeen graduate Chris Morgan was an offensive line coach for the Seattle Seahawks during Super Bowl XLIX.

Royce O'Neal, who was a standout at Harker Heights before playing at Denver and Baylor, plays basketball in the NBA for the Utah Jazz, and on Feb. 18, the small forward recorded a career-high 19 points against the Phoenix Suns.

After being drafted by the San Antonio Spurs in 2014, former Killeen Kangaroo Cory Jefferson, who became a standout at Baylor, has played for the Brooklyn Nets, Phoenix Suns and Bakersfield Jam in the NBA Development League. He currently plays for the Texas Legends.

In college, Shoemaker standout defensive end Rahssan Thornton playing for LSU, while offensive linemen Zach Shackelford, of Belton, and J.P. Urquidez, of Copperas Cove, each play for Texas.

Multiple area athletes made it to the collegiate level in basketball. Perhaps none, however, landed in a better position than Rashard Odomes (Copperas Cove), who plays for powerhouse Oklahoma.

Additionally, C.J. Bobbitt (Harker Heights) is playing at New



MICHAEL MILLER

UMHB's Tevin Jones (5) dives to tackle East Texas Baptist quarterback Brian Baca (7) during game action at Crusader Stadium on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus in Belton on Nov. 11, 2017. Michael Miller/Telegram

Mexico State after transferring from Denver, while former teammate Cam DeLaney is playing alongside his brother, Josh DeLaney, at Sam Houston State, and Davon Clare is excelling at Cal State Fullerton.

On the girls' side, former Lady Knights standout Alexis Dukes is now with Texas-San Antonio, and former Shoemaker guard Tija Hawkins is also on the roster.

In track and field, Lampasas has two athletes competing at Oklahoma in decathlete Steven Jazdyk and high jumper Shon Howard, while former Badgers standout long jumper Steffin McCarter and Copperas Cove

sprinter Eric Cain compete for Texas, and Ellison's Keith Jackson II is set to begin his freshman season with the Longhorns' powerlifting team.

Plenty of area-grown talent reside right down the road on the Mary Hardin-Baylor campus in Belton.

Former Belton Tigers Chris Jones, Tevin Jones and Jacob Perez, Ellison's Cameron Armstrong, Salado's James Collins and Killeen's Eriq Velez were each part of the Crusaders' 2016 Division III national championship football team. Additionally, Carl Robinson III (Ellison), Jayden Smith (Ellison),

Jaykwon Thompson (Killeen), Jalil Bethel (Killeen), Alexander Goosby (Harker Heights) and Marcus McCrea (Copperas Cove) helped UMHB return to the title game in 2017.

Pitcher Casey Frazier, of Salado, plays for the Crusaders' baseball squad, while Belton's Braden Hammond, Killeen's Demarius Cress and Brian Long, Ellison's Shaq Martin and Harker Heights' Kendal Little each play for the basketball team.

In women's athletics, Caitlyn Shaughnessy, of Lampasas, plays soccer and Killeen's Dusti Douglas and Salado's Jenna Calder play softball for Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Golfers have options with three area courses

BY MARK MILLER
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

For those who enjoy golfing, there are several quality courses in the area.

Stonetree Golf Club was built in 1970 and completely renovated in 2005. There are four sets of tees to provide a challenging, but fair test to golfers of all skill levels.

Tee times are available up to seven days in advance, with the first available time being 7:30 a.m.

Reservations can be made by calling 254-501-6575.

Season passes are also available.

The pro shop is kept fully stocked with the latest in golf equipment and apparel. The clubhouse is an 8,000-square-foot structure that offers a daily menu, sports bar, and is available for a variety of functions and parties. The address is 1600 Stonetree Drive, Killeen. For

more information about Stonetree, go to golfkilleen.com.

The Courses of Clear Creek is on Battalion Avenue in Fort Hood.

The course is open to the public, though civilians will need to obtain a visitor's pass at the main gate.

The course is open from dawn to dusk each day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and severe weather days. The pro shop can be reached at 254-287-4130.

There is a 27-hole championship golf course and a free four-hole course designed especially for youngsters. Full and half-sets of clubs are available for rent. Eleven-round punch cards and season passes are also available. Lessons are also available. A 45-minute instruction session costs \$35-45.

The 4,500-foot clubhouse has a full snack bar and lunch is served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, and from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday.

Hills of Cove Golf Course is at 1408 Golf Course Road in Copperas Cove. It is near the intersection of Golf Course Road and Texas Street.

The original nine holes were built in 1972. A second nine was added in 1999.

The phone number is 254-547-2606.

The course offers a golf professional, golf lessons, a full service pro-shop, beer sales, lighted driving range, grill and a fleet of 40 golf carts.

The course plays to 6,200 yards from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 69.0 and it has a slope rating of 114 on Bermuda grass. Hills of Cove is open from dawn to dusk daily, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Belton's Preston Pratt hits a tee shot during the opening day of the District 8-6A tournament at Stonetree Golf Club.

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