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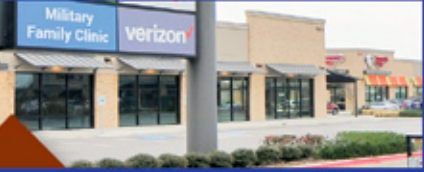
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Killeen population continues to climb in 2019

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

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.

Killeen's population is estimated at 147,630 in 2019. 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 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 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," said Killeen Director of Communications Hilary



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Homes are seen across from the Willow Springs Post Office on Stan Schlueter Loop on Jan. 31.

Shine. "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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What is Progress?

Progress is an annual publication of KDH Media Group that focuses on advances during 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 76-page edition includes news, information, photographs and advertisements that highlight strides 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 develop-

ments in the business sector, Progress also takes a look at the areas of education, military, real estate, recreation, religion and the medical community.

The content for the 2019 Progress edition was created by staffs of the Killeen Daily Herald's editorial and advertising departments, as well as several news and photography correspondents.

Fee boosts Killeen's street repairs

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The city of Killeen is working on major infrastructure updates in 2019 — with the help of a new fee that will help address potholes and other road repairs.

In December, the Killeen City Council approved a street maintenance fee that will raise \$1.6 million annually and help pay for road infrastructure projects throughout the city. The initiative was undertaken after the city identified a significant shortfall in the city's upkeep of its residential and major roads.

The monthly fee will be assessed on residents' and businesses' utility bills and is expected to go into effect in July, according to the city.

In 2018, work began on the Rosewood Drive extension project, which cost \$7.8 million and is scheduled for completion in 2020. The project, overseen by Belton-based James Construction, 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



MICHAEL BOYD | HERALD

Construction continues on the water treatment plant on Stillhouse Hollow Lake, south of Killeen. The plant is being built by the Bell County Water Control and Improvement District with money from area cities.

began in April 2018 with an expected completion date in summer 2020.

In November, the council voted to approve a more than \$440,000 contract with Waco-based Barsh Company to improve the street and walkways on a two-block span in downtown Killeen.

The improvements are part of the city's scaled-down second phase of the Downtown Streetscaping Project.

The new sidewalks will run in front of the Solix call center at 402 E. Avenue D. The project was part of a January 2014 performance agreement between Parsippany, New Jersey-based Solix, a government services firm, and the Killeen Economic Development Corporation. The entire scope of the project will run

along Avenue D between Eighth and 10th streets.

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 was completed in summer 2018.

The city completed phase three 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.killeen-texas.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, 2017, with Houston-based CSA Engineers Inc., for \$41.6 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.

Initially 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.

Construction continues on I-14 expansion

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Construction on Interstate 14 continues in 2019 after an \$81 million expansion on the thoroughfare from Harker Heights to Belton began in 2018.

The project will take place in three phases:

In the first phase, the two-mile section of I-14, from just west of Farm-to-Market 2410 in Harker Heights to FM 3423 (Indian Trail) will be expanded to three lanes in each direction. The project is costing \$7.2 million and is scheduled to be completed by this spring. It started in April 2018.

In the second phase, the section of I-14 east from FM 3423 in Harker Heights to Simmons Road in Belton will be opened for bids in April. The projected cost for that work is estimated at \$39 million. Construction is set to start in the summer, according to TxDOT.

The last phase of the I-14 expansion, from Simmons Road to I-35, could go to

construction within the next five years, once it is funded. The estimated cost is \$35 million, according to TxDOT.

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 2017.

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 long-range goal is to connect military installations from Texas to Georgia and provide foster access to highways and ports with spur roads.

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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Construction along I-14 in Harker Heights, as seen in July 2018.

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HERALD | FILE

Rod Quinones, director at Solix, receives the award for 2018 Large Business of the Year on Sept. 20 during the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce 85th annual Membership Banquet at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

GKCC adds programs, boosts local economic development

BY JENNIFER HETZEL

GREATER KILLEEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In 2018, the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce added new programs for members and began implementing the 14 Forward plan of work developed the year before.

One new event was Leadercast Women, a sister event to Leadercast Live. An all-female speaker lineup was simulcast to host sites throughout the nation, including Killeen.

This year, Leadercast Women will be Oct. 18 and Leadercast Live will be May 10. Advance registration is required.

Lights on Santa Fe, a holiday celebration in downtown Killeen with vendors, ice skating, snow and other holiday activities, was also added in 2018.

Flavors of Central Texas will be Aug.

13 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. This is the community's chance to sample food from more than 40 local restaurants and caterers.

The following award winners were recognized at the 84th Annual Membership Banquet in 2018:

- Roy J. Smith Award-Charlie Watts
- Large Business of the Year-Solix, Inc.
- Small Business of the Year-Great Escape of Central Texas
- Public Education Council Individual of the Year-Angenet Wilkerson, KISD
- Public Education Council Business of the Year-TAMUCT
- Greater Killeen Young Professional of The Year-Ally Torres, First National Bank Texas
- Welcome Council Member of the

PLEASE SEE **GKCC, 11**

Year-Cathy Sweem, AmeriStor Self Storage

• Non-Profit of the Year-Operation Phantom Support

The 2019 Annual Membership Banquet will be Sept. 19.

The Greater Killeen Young Professionals held monthly socials and luncheons in 2018, and their 9th annual Rock the Foundation Casino Night raised \$5,000 for scholarships at CTC and TAMUCT.

The Military Relations Council facilitated a group trip to the U.S. Army National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. The council also organized an Annual Command Team BBQ Social, three luncheons featuring speakers giving updates about Fort Hood, and other events.

The Leadership Killeen program graduated 23 students in May 2018 and a new class of 22 students began in September.

The Public Policy Council held luncheons with Sen. John Cornyn and Reps. John Carter, Roger Williams and John Zerwas.

The Chamber continues to work with the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition and Youth Infrastructure Coalition to ensure the continued expansion of Interstate 14 from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Fort Stewart, Georgia. This designation will have enduring economic impact on the city of Killeen and other cities along the route.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Solix, Inc. announced in May 2018 it would expand its presence downtown by investing \$1.45 million to open a second, 6,000-square-foot facility down the street from its location that opened January 2014. The company's expansion will add 180 jobs with an annual salary of \$25,000.

Z Modular announced its location in a 230,000-square-foot facility in the Killeen Industrial Park. The company will manufacture American-made steel-framed modules and expects to hire 250

highly skilled workers with an average annual salary of \$45,000 within three years.

MGC Pure Chemicals America Inc. (MPCA), a manufacturing company servicing the semiconductor industry, continued construction on their facility and announced an additional \$12 million investment in the site, for a total of \$40 million capital investment. Once complete, MPCA will become one of the largest tax-paying business in Killeen.

In 2018, these three companies collectively announced that 463 new jobs would be created, 282,000 square feet developed, and nearly \$50 million would be invested in Killeen.

These developments were all the result of the recruitment efforts of the Killeen Economic Development Corporation, which is housed in the Killeen Chamber.

14 FORWARD

14 Forward is 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.

Staff has made considerable progress on program initiatives, which include:

1) **Growing Business and Investment** through aggressive business recruitment, capitalizing on the economic development potential of the university, and conducting research and sharing data with our investors.

2) **Promoting Fort Hood** by advocating for expansion of current missions/attracting new missions to the post, promoting partnerships and securing funding for projects that will benefit the post and our community.

3) **Strengthening Infrastructure** to improve quality of place by improving both the physical and digital highways that run through our community.

To learn how to get involved with or join the chamber, call 254-526-9551, visit killeenchamber.com or email rebekah@killeenchamber.com.

To learn about the chamber's economic development work or data about the Killeen area, visit killeenedc.com or email phyllis@killeenchamber.com.

To learn about the 14 Forward campaign, visit killeenchamber.com/forward or email jennifer@killeenchamber.com.

JENNIFER HETZEL is director of research for the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce

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Food Care Center keeps growing in its 32nd year

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Killeen Food Care Center has entered its 32nd 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 April.

"We couldn't do without them. Some people have more than 1000 hours of volunteer time, and some have been helping us for 20 years."

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please e-mail the center at foodcare@embarqmail.com.

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 1987 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. "We distributed 2.4 million pounds of groceries to over 84,000 individual clients, or 30,000 families, in this most recent fiscal year."

An average of 25 percent of clients are children and another quarter are seniors. The center serves many military members including active, retired and/or veteran status, he said.

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 support," he said.

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

"Ninety-five percent of our operating funds come from local individuals, churches, and service organizations," Cockrell said in an email. "We belong to this community. We need for people to continue to support us, both financially and prayerfully in order to keep pace with the increase in service levels," he said.

The center appreciates food drives and donations, but monetary gifts are most helpful to fill in gaps. Checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 1656, Killeen, TX 76540 or e-check and credit card donations can be made online at www.foodcare.org

Cockrell said the center is breaking ground in February on a community garden on the property. The Killeen Heights Rotary Club is funding the project and will partner with the local Master Gardner's Society, he said.

"The garden will be planted and maintained by students within KISD," Cockrell said. "We believe that if you teach them to have a servant heart at an early age, they will carry it with them the rest of their lives."

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 local 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.

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Revitalization efforts continue for Killeen's downtown

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

New businesses and non-profit partnerships helped continue the revitalization of downtown Killeen in 2018.

According to revitalization planner Jerry Millard, several downtown businesses and organizations opened in 2018, including:

- Bayside Media, a recording studio, at 301 E. Avenue D.
- A second location for Solix at 201 E. Avenue D, bringing an additional 180 jobs to downtown.
- Austin Finance Company relocated to 331 E. Avenue D and is looking to renovate and lease their previous location at 331 E. Avenue D for office use.
- Operation Phantom Support relocated its operation to 401 N. Eighth Street after the closing of Modern TV and Appliance, a longtime downtown staple, at that location.
- Isbell Properties closed its doors at 312 E. Avenue B and moved to Stan Schlueter Loop, allowing Expert Rentals to move into this building.

• Becky Isbell moved into the old Isbell Properties building at 312 N. Gray Street with her Goosehead Insurance Agency office. She is currently sharing the building with a fitness consultant.

Millard said more plans are in the works for 2019, with several businesses either opening or re-opening, including:

- The Scene boutique is set to open at 308 N. Gray St.
- Scratch Elevated Bistro at 224 E. Avenue D will re-open under new ownership and management.

"Without divulging the business ventures of poten-

tial new businesses, keep an eye out for a new bistro and an online university coming to the 200 block of Avenue D this year," Millard said.

"Several other opportunities are in the early stages, and it is too soon to highlight them at this point. One thing is for sure, our Historic District businesses are growing and increasing at a great pace."

Millard said the revitalization program is still proceeding apace.

"Currently, all of the available economic development incentives for the Historic District and the North Killeen are gaining steam."

"These programs are the Historic District Façade and Sign Grant Programs as well as the North Killeen Revitalization Program. In addition to these, the City Council has elected to renew the North Killeen Revitalization Area Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria allowing for the continued use of tax abatement incentives specifically designed for the Historic District and the North Killeen Revitalization Area."

In the first few months of fiscal 2019, all but \$7,266.01 of the available \$50,000 in façade grant funds have been allocated for Historic District projects, Millard said. The city has awarded or allocated \$43,533.99 of grant funding for façade improvements and new signage.

Those grants have assisted eight businesses, Millard said. Investments by the city and those businesses have totaled \$62,814.99.

In addition to the grant programs, a tax abatement agreement was signed for the North Killeen Revitalization Area assisting with the renovation of an apartment



PHOTOS BY GABE WOLF | HERALD

Austin Finance at 331 East Avenue D is seen Feb. 6.

complex at 1302 Harris Ave..

"A private investment of \$197,971.00 was used for the renovations, Millard said. "So far this fiscal year, the North Killeen Revitalization

Program has encouraged economic development in the amount of \$2,000,870."

For more information, go to downtownkilleenevents.com.

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Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport boarding numbers up

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

More than a year after a major carrier at the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport left the facility, boarding numbers are back up, according to city officials.

On Jan. 15, 2018, Atlanta-based Delta Airlines pulled out of the airport, stripping four incoming and outgoing flights out of the daily rotation. After their departure, city staff worked to accommodate passengers and continue to boost ticketing.

"Airport staff, immediately upon learning of the Delta departure, began discussions with the remaining carriers about increasing service levels to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Delta leaving," Director of Aviation Matt Van Valkenburgh said. "This resulted in American adding two daily round trip flights and United adding a single flight; final result was a net gain of one total round trip per day for our market."

In 2018, the airport had 131,313 enplanements and 134,349 deplanements. Last year, the airport had 129,798 and 131,745, respectively.

"An additional piece of these discussions revolved around the fares from our market and the need for us to be competitive with our competition," Van

Valkenburgh said. "The result was more parity in our fares with our competitor which helped our market throughout the year."

The city is currently undergoing a number of projects, including completing an Airport Master Plan, continuing passenger boarding bridge replacements, completing the rental car quick-turn facility improvements, commencing photovoltaic power generation projects and LED lighting retrofit, designing taxiway B rehabilitation and improvements, designing and commencing baggage system improvements and constructing the Robert Gray Army Airfield Security Surveillance Project.

The master plan, the city's spending and expansion schedule for its two airports drafted by Arkansas-based engineering firm Garver, 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."

Visit killeenfnhood.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 2018, with the design of a new T-hangar facility.

The new T-hangar is expected to be complete in 2019.

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 out.

Civic and Conference Center a hub for Killeen tourism

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Killeen Civic and Conference Center and Convention and Visitors Bureau continued to serve as a hub for tourism events in 2018 — and another big year is in the works.

The center hosted 741 events in 2018 with more than 142,000 guests coming through its doors, according to Kathie Mulheron, the center's director.

The center has 331 events already scheduled for 2019,

and continues to book events daily, Mulheron said.

"We are averaging 62 event bookings per month and continue to see a rise in client requests for a central location and affordable rates," she said. "We have contracted with 11 conventions for 2019 and continue to seek associations and military groups to Killeen as a convention destination."

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, tradeshow, weddings and meetings," Mulheron said. "Visitors spend money for lodging, transportation, restaurants and retail shopping thus generating sales and lodging tax."

In 2018, a Korean pagoda was constructed at the center in a partnership between the city and Sister Cities-Osan, creating a space for the community to learn more about the city's relationship with its overseas partner.

Thousands of workers find employment in 2018

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Thousands of job seekers found work last year through Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, an organization dedicated to connecting employers to skilled employees.

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.

Of the more than 11,000 job seekers who were helped in 2018, Workforce Solution’s data show that included 5,573 workers who had been laid off and 2,735 veterans. On average, more than half the people claiming unemployment and searching for work found a job within 10 weeks.

Of the job seekers sponsored in training, about 96 percent entered employment with 93 percent filling local, in-demand, high-skill, high-wage jobs for which they were trained.

The board’s services include career planning, childcare subsidies and vocational training assistance, in addition to job searches. It serves a large chunk of Central Texas: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties.

“People often have the perception that we are a help center,” said Charley Ayers, director of Industry/Education Partnerships. “It is important that Central Texans understand we are a launching pad, not a safety net. Through training, counseling, and opportunities, we connect people and jobs.”

PROGRAMS

The Go2Work program has seen a great deal of success in eastern Bell County and the board is developing a strategy to implement the program in Killeen. Go2Work addresses hospitality and food services businesses’ need for a trained workforce. Through Go2Work, prepared employees are connected with local employers who often hire the graduates upon training completion.

Wingspan is a career pathways program that targets youth and educators. The program is designed to help educators and students learn about “high demand” jobs for the region and how those occupations align with educational requirements, curriculum development, students’ and employers’ expectations. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide support and information for students that will help them achieve their goals. Workforce Solutions of Central Texas reached more than 650 students and 475 educators this year.

REGIONAL ECONOMY

The Central Texas regional economy had roughly 190,277 people employed at the end of 2018 with the number of available local jobs growing 1.1 percent, according to Workforce Solutions of Central Texas.

Fort Hood supports 56,930 people on the post, 35,833 off-post family members and 382,311 retirees, survivors and retired family members.

In 2018, Workforce Solutions received four awards with incentive funding totaling \$120,000. Two awards were statewide recognition for having the No. 1 Service to Workers program and the No. 1 Service to Community program. The other two awards were for having the highest percentage of training-related job placements and the highest percentage of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Workforce Solutions of Central 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. Learn how to participate in classes such as CPR and first aid, resume writing, math and English as a second language.

Habitat for Humanity continues mission to improve communities

SPECIAL TO THE KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity in 2018 continued its mission to improve communities across Central Texas with help from volunteers, donations and partnerships.

The affiliate has expanded its veteran services and home repair programs.

In 2018, FHAHFH broke ground on its Lee Crossley Veterans Community in Temple as part of its Veterans Build Initiative.

Named after Temple’s own, the late Lee Crossley, the community focuses on being a space for veterans to create an extended support system and bond over their experiences.

The community is the first of its kind and setting the standard across the nation consisting of 13 duplexes and a community center.

Various partnerships and groups of volunteers have allowed the nonprofit organization to build the community despite obstacles.

Through the application process, Habitat for Humanity assisted over 150 veterans in the area.

While Lee Crossley Veterans Community was the focal point of Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity’s year, the organization completed 31 neighborhood revitalization and repairs across Central Texas.

In 2019, Habitat is looking forward to

continuing its mission of impacting and improving communities across Central Texas.

Revitalization is the core of the organization’s focus. Their biggest revitalization zone will be Gatesville, making it the first time Habitat for Humanity being full force in the city despite performing some home repairs previously.

Habitat will be partnering with the various Gatesville organizations to mobilize the project.

Habitat for Humanity is continuing its Veterans Build Initiative and Veteran Home Repairs programs.

Nolanville is the location for the next community build, focusing on families and senior citizens.

Families in Crisis continues to support people in need

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Open since Dec. 23, 2015, Friends In Crisis provides overnight shelter, an evening meal, access to showers and laundry facilities, breakfast items and case management services.

In 2013, Families In Crisis was approached by the city of Killeen to address the long-standing absence of shelter services for the homeless in Killeen.

Using a building already owned by the agency, FIC began a \$1.4 million renovation project resulting in what is now a 78-bed, full-service homeless shelter, named Friends In Crisis, located at 412 E. Sprott Ave.

On most days, Friends In Crisis is a 16-hour-per-day shelter opening at 3 p.m., which allows time for the cleaning of the facility and the washing of all bed linens and towels for the next night.

Friends in Crisis provides clients with rapid access to other services, including the VA Health Care for the Homeless program, Greater Killeen Free Clinic,

mental health services from Central Counties Services MHMR and substance abuse assistance from Cenikor.

As a full-service shelter, it offers shelter, crisis intervention, job and life skills assistance, counseling, referrals and transition housing assistance.

For 2018, the average number of persons nightly was 75.7, a total of 27,631 bed nights for the year.

When the total exceeds the 78 beds available, cots are used. During 2018, 761 different individuals were housed at the shelter for one or more nights. Of those served, 71.7 percent were male and 28.3 percent female. Approximately 90 percent of clients were living in Killeen when they became homeless.

After being fully operational for three years, the Friends In Crisis Homeless Shelter remains at or near capacity most nights. For most clients, the first steps on the road to housing stability and self-sufficiency include replacement of lost identification to facilitate access to jobs and benefits, engagement in employment readiness and life skills activities,

and, when achievable, stabilization of mental and physical health issues.

Many organizations, churches, service groups and individuals are showing great support for this much needed facility and services for the homeless.

For more information about services or volunteer opportunities, call 254-634-1184 or go to www.familiesincrisis.net.

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Many families across the state and the country are suffering, due to homelessness, violence or some other factor. These families need help, and there are several places in Central Texas that offer it.

Families In Crisis, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit United Way organization that houses, supports and empowers people experiencing family violence, sexual violence and homelessness in Bell, Coryell and Hamilton counties, including Fort Hood. Formed in 1980 and located at 1305 E. Rancier Ave., it has evolved into a widely recognized community partner with 39 employees and an annual budget of over \$2 million.



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Killeen-Temple, Bell County still rank as high-growth in state

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

In 2018 Bell County and the Killeen-Temple metro area continue to rank as one of high-growth areas in the state.

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 newly elected County Judge David Blackburn, Bell County was able to add \$578,972 to the fund balance this past year, increasing it to \$41,666,912.

That's a little over five 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 \$4.35 million of the fund balance.

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

The county budget included \$37,269,378 of expenditures for public safety, as well as \$2,875,145 for health and conservation.

More than \$94 million worth of total revenue was generated last year, including \$855,263 from a hotel/motel tax and more than \$51.6 million that came from total property taxes.

Blackburn said a reason for the budget increases can be attributed to population. In 1960, the county's popula-

tion was just 94,097. Now, it hovers above 400,000, according to the latest population estimates from the state.

With more people comes more demand for services and programs, Blackburn said.

The projected expenditures for 2019 are \$99,788,534. In 2018, the projected expenditures were \$96,377,497, and in 2017 they were \$95,147,600, 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.

Blackburn said he is diligently preparing to make a smooth transition into his role as County Judge.

"The first 35 days have gone quickly," Blackburn said. "It seems that there is quite a bit of training that is all in the first 30 days of office, or so it seems. I have been to training for newly elected officials and training for newly elected county judges, just to mention a couple.

"As for what I hope to accomplish in 2019 ... I think always at the top of any county judge's list is a smooth, uneventful budget process that yields the level of programs and services that our residents want to see from the county with the lowest, most efficient costs possible. Indigent health care, indigent legal defense, and a host of other unfunded mandates will continue to provide challenges for the county budget."

Killeen animal shelter prepares to move to its new division

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Killeen Animal Shelter is preparing to move out from under the umbrella of the Killeen Police Department and will instead be overseen by the Community Services Department, a move that may happen sometime in 2019, depending on other factors.

One of those other factors is how quickly the Animal Services Department can get a new director. Currently, Lt. Tony McDaniel is serving as the interim shelter director, a position he has held since February 2018 after the previous director, Ed Tucker, submit-

ted his retirement while on administrative leave. One candidate for the position was proposed to the Killeen Animal Advisory Committee at the beginning of the year, but no final decision has been made.

The Killeen Animal Shelter is making progress toward becoming a no-kill shelter, having achieved an average live release percentage of 90 for the year of 2018. This is a 5 percent improvement over where the shelter was in 2017, which saw a live release percentage of 85 percent.

The general consensus on what qualifies a shelter for

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New restaurants offer chance to stretch taste buds

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

One thing Killeen is never lacking is places to eat, and 2018 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.

Some of the new restaurants setting up shop in the Killeen area are:

- Mais Souffle Bistro, located at 1310 W. Stan Schlueter Loop, offers gourmet popcorn in a variety of flavors and

package sizes.

- Jimmy's Egg, located at 1103 W. Stan Schlueter Loop, is a restaurant that offers breakfast, brunch and lunch meals all day long.

- Burger King, located at 3809 E. Stan Schlueter Loop, offers burgers and fries in a traditional fast-food format.

- GattiTown Pizza, located at 2501 E. Central Texas Expy, is a buffet-style pizzeria that also offers a variety of arcade games.

- Galaxy B&G, located at 104 W. Veterans Memorial Blvd., is a 'Star Wars'-themed grill serving creative burgers

and breakfast meals.

- Ras Kitchen, located at 515 S. Second St., is a restaurant featuring traditional Caribbean food.

- Urban Bricks, located at 3126 E. Central Texas Expy, is a made-to-order personal pizza restaurant.

- Taj Restaurant, located at 803 E. Central Texas Expy, offers Indian food like curry, korma, vindaloo, pakora, vegetarian fare and various house specials.

HARKER HEIGHTS

- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, located at 335

Knight's Way, specializing in fried chicken fingers, crinkle-cut fries and Texas toast.

- Cup of Joe Coffee Shop, located at 600 Indian Trail, offers free-trade brews, baked goods, classes and catering in a buzzy modern space.

- Palmeras Tex-Mex Con Sabor, located at 201 E. Central Texas Expy, specializes in enchiladas, tacos, fajitas and other classic tex-mex cuisine.

- Tropical Smoothie Cafe, located at 300 E. Central Texas Expy. #400, features toasted wraps, sandwiches, flatbreads and bowls.

HOP transit reduces services, still covers Bell, Coryell counties despite increasing costs, lower revenue

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The distinctive green buses of the HOP Hill Country Transit District still are prevalent across 9,000 square miles of nine Central Texas counties, but the transit system had to reduce services beginning last fall because of budget constraints.

Bell and Coryell are among the nine counties where the HOP operates.

After a series of city council meetings in August and September, the cities of Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove each decided not to increase their contributions to funding to the HOP, as requested by the transit system.

For Killeen, the service requested more than \$455,000 in fiscal year 2019 — a roughly \$335,000 increase from fiscal year 2018.

The transit district said in a news release that it had to bal-

ance increased ridership with tight financial constraints in recent years.

"The system has experienced steady growth during the past four decades," the release said. "However, due to increased costs and decreased revenues, service changes are now having to be made."

Route changes took effect in October.

Routes 100 and 4 in Killeen were extended to pick up the most active stops on Route 5, which was completely eliminated.

A new transfer station to connect the two routes will be established at the intersection of Old Farm-to-Market 440 and Baldwin Loop. The service's current transfer station at Fourth Street and Avenue C in downtown Killeen will remain in place.

In addition, Saturday service, including Americans With Disabilities Act paratransit pickup, was cut throughout the Killeen transit zone,

including routes in Killeen, Copperas Cove and Harker Heights. Routes 35 and 65 in Heights and Cove, respectively, lost nonpeak-hour service on weekdays. Both routes also end earlier than before.

The system boasts a ridership of more than 680,000 people across the region.

Providing a safe, dependable and seamless public transit service is the main goal of the HOP. It uses 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.

Specific information regarding service, route maps, schedules, and riding rules is available on its web site at www.takethehop.com or by calling 254-933-3700 or 1-800-791-9601.

SHELTER

FROM PAGE I7

no-kill status is maintaining a live release percentage of 90 or greater for multiple months.

"Killeen Animal Services is very proud of this accomplishment and the entire staff deserves credit," McDaniel said. "Obtaining a 90 percent live release rate was no accident; it was due to very hard work and learning from past failures."

The shelter has also had more intakes in 2018 than in 2017. In 2018 there were 4,758 animals taken in at the Killeen Animal Shelter, while in 2017 there were 4,138 animal pickups.

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

Aside from McDaniel, the shelter has several employees to help take care of the animals.

At max capacity, the shelter is able to hold 75 dogs and 68 cats. The animal shelter is located at 3118 Commerce St.

Bonds tighten among Central Texas theaters

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Bonds among Central Texas theaters are expanding and tightening, a situation that stands to help everyone in years to come.

Vive Les Arts in Killeen, a fixture in the city since 1976, joined with Waco Civic Theatre in 2017, and now the partnership is expanding to include the Temple Civic Theatre.

"It's been good for all of us, with our actors performing on their stages, so it's a level of cooperation as good as it's been in a decade," said Eric Shephard, Vive Les Arts executive director. "Bringing Temple into collaboration is new."

He said the three theaters will continue to share actors and props as part of a production agreement but they will not share as many plays.

"There will be two in common this year, which means that neither theater has to bear the full expense of the show," Shephard said. It can cost as much as \$15,000 to put on a musical, he said.

"It's an economic gain and gets people out going to theaters in other cities," he said.

Shephard said he's not ready to announce next season yet, but said that the three theaters are in discussions.

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS:" March 1-10

"UNNECESSARY FARCE:" April 5-14

"JUNIE B. Jones" (Children's Theatre Production): May 9-12

"MAMA MIA!" June 7-16

Last year, Vive Les Arts was riding a five-year high in ticket sales, a windfall driven by the community rallying after an announcement in 2017 that the theater might have to close its doors.

Since then, things have evened out and the theater, still in the black, still always is in need of donations.

"Humans tend to respond better to times of crisis than situation normal," Shephard said. "But support is just as important now as it was two years ago."

Vive Les Arts is putting out a better product, he said.

"It's getting better as we get better access to talent, music and stage directors," Shephard said.

With ticket sales on the rise and a desire to achieve a greater presence in the community, there is a need for a new executive director.

"The search for a new executive director is motivated by the desire to take the theater to the next level," Shephard said. "We are in a good position, but we can

do more with staffing that can devote its full attention to VLA. Currently all our staff works other jobs, and this new hire will let us achieve greater presence in the community and increase our capacity."

On deck next is "Steel Magnolias." Community response to the classic has been overwhelming, with about 200 people competing for seven parts.

"Steel Magnolias," like all plays, presents at least one unique challenge.

"We're looking for people who know how to style hair and can show our actors because much of it takes place in a beauty parlor where they're styling hair live."

For more information, call 254-526-9090 or go to vlakilleen.org. Vive Les Arts, at 3401 S. W.S. Young Drive, is supported by funds from the City of Killeen and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Individual tickets for the Main Stage are \$20 for adults, \$18 for military members, seniors, students and teachers, and \$15 for children 12 and under. Children's Theatre tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for military members, seniors, students and teachers, and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Season memberships are available for \$90 for individuals and \$85 for military members, seniors, students and teachers.

Bell County Museum continues efforts to educate

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Greeting visitors to downtown Belton for many years is the Bell County Museum on Main Street, just off I-35.

Its roots date to 1899 and the museum continues to educate locals and visitors alike with its variety of exhibits, collections and speakers.

"Over the past few years, visitation to the museum has risen," said Coleman Hampton, museum director. "(We're) committed to becoming an integral part of our Bell County communities, a byproduct of which is increased impact and visitation."

The museum has several traveling exhibits scheduled for 2019, includ-

ing "Lonesome Dove," "Artists of Bell County," "Backstage Pass: Rolling Stone Magazine," "American Farmer" and "Holiday Toys from the Past."

"Traveling exhibits give visitors something new to see, while complimenting the story we tell about the history, heritage, art, and archaeology of Bell County," Hampton said.

Two permanent exhibits are "Passport Through Time," about Bell County history, and "The Gault Site," which examines the prehistory of the region.

He said the museum soon will announce the speakers coming later this year in the Spring Lecture Series, popular with adults.

Hampton said educational outreach continues to be important for museums.

"Museums are no longer places to look at objects behind glass, as was the case in the 19th and most of the 20th century," he said. "Our museums are educational resources for school kids to participate in outside of the classroom learning, and hopefully be inspired to learn something new about the world or the community in which they live."

The museum also offers activities for kids during spring break and a week-long 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.

Education is focus of three community organizations

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Three organizations in Killeen are focusing on education to tighten community bonds, including the Killeen branch of the NAACP and two local branches of the League of United Latin American Citizens: Killeen-Fort Hood LULAC Council 4535, and LULAC Herencia Council 4297.

NAACP KILLEEN BRANCH #6189

The Killeen branch of the NAACP, established in 1970, will be joining the “Next Gen” program with a local emphasis on public education.

“Next Gen is a national NAACP program to prepare and nurture young leaders, and with our local spin on it we’re going to focus on our elementary, middle and high school kids,” said TaNeika Driver-Moultrie, who is coming in as the Killeen branch’s president after previously serving three terms. “The bottom line is that we consider ourselves torchbearers but we’re not going to be here forever so we need to pass along that torch to young people and equip them with leadership skills.”

Driver-Moultrie said the organization is going to take a close look at schools’ report cards. “That way we can see where the greatest needs are for tutoring, outreach and mentoring,” she said.

The Education Committee every year hosts a college tour for high school students and adults, to be held this year from March 10-13. Last year, a group of 50 students traveled to Louisiana; this year, the group will travel to Alabama, where they will visit several universities as well as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Rosa Parks Museum and the Legacy Museum.

The organization hosts a number of annual events, in addition to its monthly meetings.

The 46th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, which will be held on March 22 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. Huston-Tillotson University President Colette Pierce Burnette will be speaking on this year’s theme: “We Can’t Rest Now. The Stakes Are Too High.”

“We’re planning on a great crowd to celebrate the accomplishments of the NAACP but the highlight is awarding scholarships to graduating seniors,” Driver-Moultrie said.

Six scholarship awards of \$1,000 each will be announced at the event.

The local branch continues to be a voice in the community by supporting many outreach efforts. Other yearly events include Juneteenth 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 Killeen branch of the NAACP meets on the third Monday of every month at Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church at 4201 Zephyr Road, starting at 5:30 p.m. with the executive board meeting and 7 p.m. for the general membership meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

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

KILLEEN-FORT HOOD LULAC COUNCIL 4535

Council 4535 is the oldest LULAC council in Bell County, celebrating 25 years in 2018, and the focus on education can be seen through its citizenship training classes and scholarships.

“We’re committed to the preparation and education of our future leaders,” said LULAC Foundation Chairman Raul Villaronga. The organization has awarded \$195,000 in scholarships since 2002 to graduating seniors from Killeen and Copperas Cove school districts, as well as for current students at Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

He said the organization will award \$20,000 in scholarships in 2019, but the deadline to apply is March 22.

“Scholarships also are available for citizenship applicants to defray the extraordinary cost of applying for citizenship,” Villaronga said.

The next citizenship course starts on March 30 and is for legal residents who are qualified for citizenship. More than 300 people have taken the courses since 2014.

The council also is coordinating with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to host naturalization ceremonies in the community. “It’s important that new citizens and their families do not have to travel far for these important life events,” Villaronga said.

He said anyone is welcome to join the council, which has 37 members.

“We also provides food baskets to needy citizens in our community,” Villaronga said.

State Rep. Brad Buckley will be speak-

ing at the council’s annual banquet on April 13 at the Courtyard Marriott in Killeen. The Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year will be announced at the banquet.

The LULAC Council 4535 Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and all donations are fully tax deductible. For more information on scholarships, banquets, tickets or membership, call 1-800-KILLEEN or visit www.killeenlulac4535.com.

LULAC HERENCIA COUNCIL 4297

LULAC Herencia Council 4297 also has education outreach into the community.

“Our mission is to inspire, nurture, and support the educational attainment of members of the Hispanic community and elevate those in need while fostering leadership to do the same for future generations,” said Minerva D. Cotton, vice president of the Herencia Council. “We work in the community by assisting those in need wherever and whenever we can.”

The LULAC Herencia Youth Council is being formed. “We are looking for students ages 13 and up who want to help and volunteer in the community while gaining leadership skills to help them succeed in life,” she said. Meetings are held at the Clements Teen Center in Killeen on the first Monday of the month from 6-7 p.m.

“We invite all students to attend and bring some friends,” Cotton said.

The annual “Our Heritage, My Legacy Gala” honors young ladies in a group quinceañera and Sweet 16 party celebrating their academic achievements with scholarships. The Bilingual Teacher of the Year will be announced at the gala, scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at the Phantom Warrior Club on Fort Hood.

“The young ladies go through a series of classes such as etiquette, public speaking, conflict resolution, and also go on a visit to a college,” Cotton said.

The council also helped get out the vote in 2018 by hosting numerous forums for regional and local candidates.

Monthly meetings are held at the Harker Heights Recreation Center on the second Monday of the month, from 6-8 p.m.

The organization posts regularly on its Facebook page: facebook.com/LULACHerenciaCouncil4297.

Police, fire departments look to increase efficiency

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Keeping residents in the ever-growing city of Killeen safe and sound are first responders with the Killeen Police Department and the Killeen Fire Department. Both are exploring ways to be more efficient, staying within the city's budget while increasing recruitment.

KILLEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Killeen Police Department continues to emphasize community involvement as part of its crime-fighting arsenal, crediting it with their ability to make a rapid arrest in at least one murder in 2018 and driving down the crime rate.

"We'll continue with community engagement events, reaching out to our youth and focusing on crime prevention," said Assistant Police Chief Margaret Young. "The primary focus will be on crime, even though crime dropped significantly during 2018."

Through community crime prevention coordinator Tammy Moseley and several Killeen council members, residents in several neighborhoods are getting together to take steps toward ensuring a safer place to live. At meetings, folks are educated about KPD's programs such as the citizen's police academy.

Young said the department this summer will hold its first Youth Public Safety Summer Camp, which is meant for community residents ages 12-15.

Chief Charles "Chuck" Kimble took the helm in September 2017, bringing with him some changes.

"He continues to focus on assisting the patrol division by reviewing procedures, hours, and other efficiencies," Young said. Investigators now also work in the evenings to assist the patrol division.

Kimble has increased communication within the department.

"We're increasing communications between patrol and supervisory staff, especially during CompStat meetings when all divisions work together to analyze crime trends and focus on the most prolific identified criminals,"



HERALD | FILE

Killeen Police Chief Charles Kimble speaks to news media after a Department of Justice crime study meeting June 25 at Killeen Police Headquarters.

Young said.

Young said the department is improving its use of technology, rolling out a body-worn camera program and exploring a drone program. They also are upgrading the backup 911 system and the communications office.

"Technology and social media can be a force multiplier," she said.

Young acknowledged that the department is not immune to difficulties in the recruitment and retention of officers faced nationwide, but the police academy in session now has 21 recruits, and the department is expanding its recruiting staff.

KILLEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Like their comrades in the police department, the city's fire department is working to expand its operations within a tight budget.

"As the city grows, at some point it will be necessary to add stations, equipment and personnel," said Chief Brian Brank. "There is a plan for future stations and tentative locations but there is no revenue source identified as of yet."

Renovations have been ongoing, with the completion of roofs at Central Station, No. 3 and No. 7. Next up is the renovation of the dormitory at Central Station, which should begin around

May, Brank said.

In 2017, Fire Station No. 9 opened for operations in order to service southwest Killeen, a region seeing a population boom. Brank said he expects there to be at least 10,000 to 15,000 more people living in the area within the next five years, and that new station is vital to the public safety of those who live there.

The department is awaiting the delivery of a fire engine and SUVs for staff members.

Brank, who became chief in 2016, said a "diminished revenue stream" is a constant concern.

"The call load volume continues to increase and all possible internal efficiencies are being considered," he said, adding that keeping ambulances available for calls has been a priority.

The fire department also is trying to attract recruits.

"The Killeen Fire Department has reorganized its entrance testing schedule to make it more efficient regarding filling vacancies," Brank said.

Of course, the fire department is tasked with more than fighting blazes.

"EMS was honored with the GOLD award from American Heart Association Mission Life Line for exceeding national standards," he said.

Killeen police report 49 percent decrease in violent crime

HERALD STAFF REPORT

KILLEEN CRIME STATISTICS

	2018	2017	PERCENT DROP FROM 2017 TO 2018
MURDERS	7	18	61 percent
RAPE	118	151	22 percent
ROBBERY	144	313	54 percent
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	303	636	52 percent
OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME	572	1,118	49 percent
BURGLARIES	853	1,140	25 percent
LARCENY (THEFT)	2,249	2,403	6 percent
VEHICLE THEFTS	249	566	56 percent
NONVIOLENT CRIME	3,351	4,109	18 percent

SOURCE: Killeen Police Department

The Killeen Police Department reported a substantial decrease in crime across the board in both violent and nonviolent crimes in 2018 when compared to 2017.

Violent crime, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, decreased by 49 percent while nonviolent crime, including burglary, larceny, and vehicle thefts, decreased 18 percent, according to KPD in a news release on Feb. 1.

Data is preliminary until verified by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the news release said.

Overall, the crime rate was about 25 percent lower, police said.

“The community’s com-

mitment and effort to combat crime has been on the right path and continues to be,” said KPD Chief Charles Kimble, in the news release. “We are also excited to report that 2018 had the lowest crime rate for the city of Killeen for at least three decades.”

Murders decreased 61 per-

cent, from 18 in 2017 to seven in 2018, KPD reported.

Robberies and aggravated assaults in 2018 were also well below the 2017 rates, both categories seeing drops of more than 50 percent.

Kimble expressed his thanks for the team effort among Killeen police offi-

cers, the Bell County district attorney’s office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Waco, the Texas Department of Public Safety and federal partners such as the FBI, and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Marshals.

KPD completed its crime data report in January.

Bell County Expo Center hosts more events, boosts attendance

BY DAVE MILLER

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The past year has been a year of substantial growth for the Bell County Expo Center.

With more events, higher overall attendance and the opening of the 170,000-square-foot Equine Livestock Complex, the Expo Center has been a beehive of activity.

“We’ve been very busy,” said Expo Center Executive Director Tim Stephens. “We hosted a lot of our traditional events, such as the PRCA Rodeo, Bell County Youth Fair and the annual boat show, but we’ve added several new events as well.”

Stephens pointed to figures showing 259 events over 550 event days in 2018, up from 248 events in 2017. The Expo Center had a total attendance of 403,147 people last year, and the Central Texas State Fair was one of the largest on record, drawing about 25,000 visitors over Labor Day weekend.

“We ended the year with one of the



MICHAEL MILLER | FME NEWS SERVICE

Stetson Loyd of Troy FFA shows his grand champion market swine during the 2019 Bell County Youth Fair and Livestock Show Auction at the Bell County Expo Equine and Livestock Complex in Belton.

biggest pole-vaulting competitions in the state, the Texas Elite Pole Vaulting Championships.

“Of course, our biggest accomplishment last year was the opening of the Equine/Livestock Complex, which had its grand opening on July 27, with a performance by the 1st Cav Horse Detachment,” Stephens said.

Last year was a year full of firsts, Stephens said, noting the new complex hosted the National Swine Registry in March, the Texas Longhorn World Show in June and several new horse and dog shows. He also noted that the Bell County Youth Fair used the new facility for the first time this month.

“We stayed booked last year, with only two open weekends, Stephens said. “At this date, we only have about two or three open weekends throughout 2019.”

Stephens said the Expo Center’s expansion has allowed the center to bring in events the facility couldn’t host in the past — and the enlarged complex has helped draw exhibitors and events from several groups outside the area.

“We’re doing more events, bringing more people in. We’re proud of the diversity of our building and our events,” Stephens said.

“It all benefits the quality of life and economic impact for the county. We like to be the best asset we can be to the county.”

Daily Herald continues to expand its offerings and services

BY DAVE MILLER

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Daily Herald continues to expand its offerings and services — as well as look for ways to increase reader engagement.

An award-winning newspaper in its 129th year of operation, the Herald has evolved far beyond its roots as a weekly newspaper serving a small cotton-farming town prior to the arrival of Camp Hood in 1942.

Today, the Daily Herald continues to serve the fast-growing Central Texas community as part of the multifaceted KDH Media Group, providing the latest news and information across a variety of platforms.

In addition to producing an award-winning daily newspaper — the Herald was recognized in April as the Associated Press Managing Editors' Newspaper of the Year for its circulation category — KDH Media Group publishes three weekly community publications.

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

The Herald last year instituted several new features to enhance reader engagement, including a daily Facebook poll, a weekly poll and live-streaming of selected public events via Facebook Live and Twitter.

Over the past year, the Herald continued its commitment to dynamic political coverage, conducting candidate forums featuring candidates for state and local races.

That tradition will continue this year, as the Herald will sponsor a Killeen City Council forum on March 4 — the first such forum in the May 4 election campaign.

The Herald also offers candidate bios, video interviews, issue-oriented Q&As and election information on all local races of interest at its politics site, [\[news.com/centerforpolitics\]\(http://news.com/centerforpolitics\).](http://kdh-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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

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.

The Herald is in the process of developing a user-friendly app, which will allow area residents to access breaking news, sports and information on the Herald's website at the touch of a button.

The Herald's commitment to timely, thorough coverage, solid writing and eye-catching design has earned the paper recognition in the industry.

The Herald has been named Newspaper of the Year in its circulation class three times since 2011, with the latest award coming at last year's Associated Press Managing Editors Conference in Corpus Christi.

The paper took second-place honors in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

In addition, the paper has been honored in 2016 and 2017 for its investigative reporting with TAPME's Star Investigative Report of the Year, the top award for the paper's circulation category.

The paper also received two consecutive Star awards for Opinion Writing in 2016 and 2017, as well as the top statewide award across all circulation categories last year.

Between 2015 and 2018, the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors have honored the Herald with 63 awards for outstanding reporting, photography and design.

The Herald continues to tackle issues of importance to Central Texans, including several that hadn't been brought to light.

Over the last year, the Herald produced a heavily researched series on the impact of burn pits on soldiers who reported severe and terminal health problems they attribute to chronic toxic smoke exposure during deployments to

the Middle East and Africa.

The Herald also offered intensive coverage of the Killeen school district's \$426 million bond election, exploring its impact on the district's taxpayers.

The paper also shined a light on the Killeen area's regional water district, which hadn't had an election in 24 years.

Over the course of the last year, the Herald took a close look at the district's operations, the water board's lack of transparency and the district's attempt to do away with board elections in favor of an appointed board.

The water board coverage was part of the Herald's continuing efforts to inform readers about the importance of local water resources and the need for accountability among the entities that control those resources.

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 continues to produce and publish three established weekly publications — the Harker Heights Herald, Copperas Cove Herald and the Fort Hood Herald.

In conjunction with the Temple Daily Telegram, the Herald also publishes a regional magazine called *Tex Appeal*. Now entering its eighth year, the high-gloss publication features profiles focusing on local individuals and businesses.

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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REAL ESTATE

Union State Bank's purchase will lead to a new name

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

A longtime area bank will go under a new name in 2019 after its purchase was authorized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 2018.

Union State Bank, a 90-year-old, Florence-based financial institution, with a branch in Harker Heights, was formally acquired by Citizens National Bank in January 2018.

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.



HERALD | FILE

The Killeen branch of Union State Bank is seen at 315 E. Avenue G.

All of Union State's former branches have not yet changed their names.

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 had majority ownership of 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 bank.

"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."

Longtime bank official T.E. Beck retired in March 2017. Beck had been an employee of Union State Bank for 60 years, and retired as the executive vice president.

Another local bank also changed ownership in 2018, as First State Bank-Central Texas merged in June with BankcorpSouth, a Tupelo-Mississippi-based institution with 264

banking locations.

The bank has branches in Harker Heights, Belton, Copperas Cove, Salado and Temple.

In other banking developments, five area banks received a "superior" rating from Bauer Financial in March.

The five banks are: First National Bank of Texas, First Texas Bank, First Texas Bank in Lampasas, National United Bank in Gatesville and Union State Bank.

Bauer's star ratings are assigned on a scale of zero to five-stars, with five being the strongest, and reflect the overall financial strength of the institution.

All five area banks included in the report received a rank of five stars.

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Multiple new businesses opening in area cities

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Over the course of 2018, Killeen permit officials issued permits worth a total value of \$207.30 million.

Several new businesses are making their way to Killeen in the near future, with a variety of business permits being issued in 2018. The combined value of all new commercial business permits is \$16.26 million.

Many of the new businesses coming to the area are retail stores, including a new Aldi's, which officially opened in the beginning of December after breaking ground in April.

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

The Gun Range, new indoor shooting facility at 2401 S. Fort Hood St., had a soft opening on June 30. The business includes 12 handgun lanes, four rifle lanes, a state-of-the-art simulator, a TV lounge of live feed of those shooting in the handgun range, a snack bar, a retail section and on-duty gunsmith.

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.

In addition to CarMax, multiple car-care businesses were permitted in 2018, from car repair and oil change services to multiple car wash facilities.

Take 5 Oil Change was the first oil change business to be permitted, appearing on the city's permit report in February. The business will be located at 1003 Bacon Ranch Road.

The Quick N Clean Killeen car wash was also permitted in February, and is located at 3402 W. Stan Schlueter Loop.

In addition to those two, Galaxies Express Carwash is located at 1300 E. Stan Schlueter Loop and the Wal-Mart located at 1380 Lowes Boulevard will be getting a gas station.

Another business coming to the area is Pet Supermarket. Valued at \$1.77 million, the building housing Pet Supermarket will be a sizable addition



ANGELA SIMS | HERALD

Burger King is seen Feb. 2 in Harker Heights.

to Killeen, with an estimated square footage of 15,204 feet. The business is located at 2602 Trimmier Road, south of Bacon Ranch Road.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Over the course of 2018, Harker Heights permit officials issued permits worth a total value of \$52 million.

Harker Heights new business permits were worth a total value of \$4.85 million.

The city saw a new medical business open in 2018, Ace Dental, which is located at 300 E. Central Texas Expressway. The business offers affordable, quality dental treatment to patients in the Central Texas area.

A few new restaurants are coming to the city, and some have already arrived according to the city's permit report.

Burger King and Raising Cane's — a burger joint and a chicken restaurant, respectively — have both opened their doors for business in the city. Burger King is located at 680 E. Knights Way. Raising Cane's is located at 335 E. Knights Way.

The city is also getting a Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins combo restaurant, which is currently under construction at 529 E. Knights Way.

In the fall, the city welcomed Palm-eras Tex Mex Con Sabor, an upscale Mexican restaurant to the Market Heights shopping center.

Tropical Smoothie Café, located at 300 E. Central Texas Expressway #400, opened Aug. 24, 2018. In addition to selling smoothies, Tropical Smoothie Café menu features toasted wraps, sandwiches, flatbreads and bowls. It also has a kid's menu.

COPPERAS COVE

Over the course of 2018, Copperas Cove permit officials issued permits worth a total value of \$34.91 million.

The city of Copperas Cove also issued a few permits for the construction of new businesses. Four business permits were issued in Copperas Cove worth a total value of \$3.33 million.

One of the new businesses that arrived was a Popeye's restaurant, a Louisiana-style chicken eatery.

Killeen-Temple area homes see sizable increase in value

BY KYLE BLANKENSHIP
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Home values in the Killeen-Temple area saw a 4.1 percent year-over-year increase in the fourth quarter of 2018, according to the Texas A&M Real Estate Center.

The average home price in the Killeen-Temple area was \$160,000 in last quarter of 2018, up from \$154,000 the year before. There were 506 homes sold in the area in December 2018. That was down from a peak of 708 homes sold in June. The inventory count in December was 2.9 months.

The average home spent 75 days on the market, and 15.5 percent of homes were foreclosed upon.

Traditionally, area home values since 2000 have been mostly flat, Killeen Realtor Brian 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.

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. The same figure in 2016 was \$118,950.

The average home in Copperas Cove is valued at \$98,000, according to Zillow.

Buyers shouldn't count on appreciation when buying a home. 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.

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 \$162,075, which is up from \$136,500 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.

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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End-of-year numbers show seller's housing market in area cities

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

It was a seller's market in Killeen at the end of 2018, and construction throughout the year remained steady in order to meet the demands of the market.

Killeen permit officials issued 697 permits for the construction of new homes worth a combined total of \$114.72 million in 2018.

According to Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, home sales had been expected to decrease in 2018 due to insufficient supply and swiftly rising home prices rather than a lack of demand. However, according to November's housing report, the most recent report available from the Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors,

HOUSING PERMITS

	2017	2018
KILLEEN	611	697
HARKER HEIGHTS	58	163
COPPERAS COVE	133	185

the number of closed sales increased by 14.9 percent from November 2017.

"Our market only loosely follows the trends often pointed out by NAR," Michael DeHart, executive director of the Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors, told the Herald recently.

In November, there were 162 closed sales in Killeen, according to a monthly report published by the area Realtors group.

Currently, Killeen has a housing inventory of 2.4 months. Housing inventory — which is defined as how long it would take before



ARTIE PHILLIPS | HERALD

A row of new duplexes is currently under construction along Lowes Boulevard in Killeen.

all active listings are sold if housing prices remained static — has seen a drop in Killeen since 2011, which had a high of 9.1 months of inventory, according to information obtained from the Texas A&M Real Estate Center.

COPPERAS COVE

Copperas Cove has also seen a steady supply of new houses being built in 2018.

City building officials issued 185 permits last year for the construction of new single-family residences, worth a combined total of \$25.98 million.

Closed sales are also up in Copperas Cove, according to November's numbers, though by a smaller percentage. There were 53 house closings in Cove in November, up 1.9 percent from last year.

Currently, Copperas Cove has a housing inventory of just 2.2 months.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Harker Heights also had an increase in sales from last year, with 43 house closings

in November, a 4.9 percent increase.

Permit officials issued 163 permits last year for the construction of new single-family residences, worth a combined total of \$45.90 million.

Harker Heights currently has a housing inventory of 2.9 months.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

A 110-unit, affordable housing apartment complex is on the way to the northwest corner of Trimmier Road and Stan Schlueter Loop, according to Killeen permit records issued in November.

Westwind Apartments is a five-building complex on 6.42 acres of land at 4611 Trimmier Road. The total value of the complex is \$10.2 million.

In addition to Westwind Apartments, numerous permits were issued in 2018 for the construction of new duplexes.

There were 66 permits issued last year for the construction of new duplexes, worth a combined total value of \$10.60 million.

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Commercial demand remains high in Harker Heights

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Demand for commercial lots within the city of Harker Heights remains high, city officials said this month.

“Many of the larger lots along I-14 have been developed by more of the big box businesses and the focus of retailers and restaurants has been strong for the smaller commercial lots,” said Heights’ City Manager David Mitchell.

The commercial demand for lots in Harker Heights is illustrated by the permits pulled over the past three years.

In 2016, commercial permits had a reported valuation of \$2 million. 2017’s reported commercial valuation was \$3.3 million.

In 2018, the reported commercial valuation more than doubled from 2017 at \$6.8 million.

“The reported commercial valuations for the previous years shows the rising demand for commercial lots in the city,” Mitchell said.

A number of new businesses opened in Harker Heights in 2018.

“Restaurants and in particular quick

serve or fast food are some of the fastest growing commercial businesses in the country,” Mitchell said.

Harker Heights is no stranger to this trend with Raising Canes and Burger King both constructing and opening stores in 2018 within the city. A Dunkin’ Donuts is also under construction within the city and is expected to open this spring.

For all three restaurants, it is the first location in Harker Heights, though not the first in the Killeen area.

Last fall, Palmeras Tex-Mex Con Sabor brought its upscale fare to the Market Heights Shopping Center, taking over the spot formerly filled by Red’s Grill.

Looking forward, the city has another restaurant in the permitting phases that should be under construction in 2019.

Demand for strip commercial in the city also remains high. A number of projects within the city were finish-out construction within existing strip centers.

These brought service businesses such as Oasis Nails and Spa and Knights Family Dentistry.

Another strip commercial center is in the permitting phases and should be constructed in 2019.

“Nationally, retail businesses have greatly slowed their pace of development. In fact, you may have seen in the news the closing of stores by a number of retailers such as Sears and JC Penney. Service industries, however, continue to have a strong demand for commercial space,” Mitchell said.

The city continues to work closely with The Retail Coach, the city’s retail recruiter, to lure businesses to the city. Retail recruiting takes time and effort.

To land businesses, cities must make a case as to why their market is best for them to locate in. The city, along with The Retail Coach, continue to pursue a number of retailers and restaurants for the city.

“The Retail Coach and I are in constant communication,” Mitchell said. “We are always pursuing businesses that have a more regional draw for locating along I-14.

“Along our secondary commercial markets like FM 2410 the focus is on business that bring variety and proximity to our residents. Being able to shop and eat close to home provides time to do other things and a better quality of life for our residents.”

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Heights busy with infrastructure projects

BY BOB MASSEY

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The past year has seen several infrastructure projects started or come to fruition in Harker Heights.

STREET REHABILITATION PROJECTS

The city borrowed \$3 million in 2018 for street reconstruction projects. These projects have been engineered by KSA Engineers and construction is underway by TTG Utilities, according to Mark Hyde, director of Public Works for the city of Harker Heights.

Clare Road has been completed and Wampus Drive is currently under reconstruction.

Projects that remain as part of the overall reconstruction include: Intersection drainage work at the Oakwood/Valley Oaks intersection. Reconstruction of Verna Lee Boulevard (to include sidewalks), Aztec Trace (from Ute to Osage to include installation of curb and gutter), Boulder Run, Forest Circle (from South Roy Reynolds to Moody), and Moody Circle.

Verna Lee Boulevard is scheduled for summer construction to avoid as many conflicts with Harker Heights High School as possible. The projects will continue through most of 2019.

The city's street maintenance projects for 2019 include: Old Nolanville Road, Fullview Court, Mountain Lion Road, Roy Reynolds Drive, Dorothy Lane, and Roy Reynolds Circle. These projects are estimated at \$1.3 million and are under engineering with KSA Engineers.

"The City Council has made a commitment to maintaining the city's streets to ensure that the City has a sustainable and quality road network," City Manager David Mitchell said.

TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUT

The Traffic Roundabout at Commercial and Heights drives is under construction with an expected completion date of early March.

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.



ROD FORD | HERALD

The roundabout nears completion at the intersection of Heights Drive and Commercial Drive in Harker Heights.

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.

"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 FM 2410

To assist with heavy traffic volumes due to area growth and the concentration of business along Farm-to-Market 2410, the Texas Department of Transportation is widening FM 2410 from Roy Reynolds Drive to I-14.

The project includes two travel lanes in each direction and a center turn lane.

Sidewalks are being constructed along each side of the roadway. Sound walls are being installed in sound sensitive areas along the route.

This project is expected to be completed in the summer.

EXPANSION OF I-14

To keep up with Central Texas' growing population, the Texas Department

of Transportation is widening a section of I-14 from four lanes to six lanes from the city's western limits to just west of the Indian Trail overpass.

This project is under construction and should be completed in 2020. "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.

FUTURE PROJECTS

The Texas Department of Transportation has a west to east turn-around bridge scheduled to be constructed on the east side of FM 2410 beginning in 2020.

There are also plans to begin construction on I-14 from just west of Indian Trail toward Belton in the coming years.

WASTEWATER LINE EXPANSION

The city hired Thonhoff Engineering to engineer a gravity sewer line from the city's current wastewater mains generally to an area near Pueblo Trace. The project is engineered and bid for construction. Bruce Flannigan Construction was awarded the construction.

PLEASE SEE **PROJECTS, 37**

PROJECTS

FROM PAGE 36

This line will allow the city to take out an older sewer lift station that is out of commission and also supply sewer service to the new KISD middle school that is under construction on Warriors Path. The project is expected to be complete in the next four months.

WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION

The project includes cleaning, sand-blasting 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 was engineered by Walker Partners and has been awarded for construction.

DEMOLITION OF OLD STORAGE TANKS

This project is complete and included the demolition of the Arrowhead 300,000-gallon steel ground storage tank, demolition of the old Maintenance Pump Station, valve vault and 500,000-gallon steel ground storage tank.

MOUNTAIN LION ROAD RETAINING WALL

This project is complete and included removing 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 foot average height, segmented block retaining wall with new 6-foot-tall wooden privacy fences and the relocation of the 6-inch water line and fire hydrant assembly.

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 is currently under construction and nearing completion. 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. Funds for the project come from the city's 2018 Certificate of Obligation with the drainage portion supported by the Drainage Fund.

Harker Heights ASYMCA offers new programs, activities

BY STEPHANIE RATTS GRISSOM
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The YMCA has a long tradition of emphasizing physical fitness, and in fact opens its gyms to millions of people nationwide every day of the year. Its mission statement even reads, "...healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

While the YMCA itself was established in the United States in 1851, the Armed Services YMCA has roots that date back to the Civil War; in 1861, with permanent establishment in 1889.

The Harker Heights ASYMCA is continuing to honor those established traditions, serving military members and their families, as well as the civilians in the community.

Since opening its doors in 2016, and under the leadership of executive director Sheri Yerrington, who took the helm in the fall of 2017, the programs the 54,000-square-foot facility on Mountain Lion Road offers just keep getting better and better.

"As a veteran YMCA leader, (Sheri Yerrington) knows the importance of programming for communities and is passionate about developing them here at the ASYMCA," said marketing director Amanda Carlson.

Just in the last year, from January 2018 to January 2019, Carlson reports the Harker Heights facility had a 15 percent overall growth.

"In January 2018, we only had approximately eight programs. This January 2019, we have 33 programs," she said.

Many of these programs are made specifically with the military family and its veterans in mind. Operation Hero is a no-cost afterschool program for grades two through eight, to help get children back on track both in school and at home, Carlson said.

Operation Little Learners is for children 18 months to 5 years old.

"This helps parents in their roles as their child's first teacher, it gives them skills to help their child develop," Carlson said.

Then there is the Children's Waiting Room. Carlson said, "This is for military families, free of charge, where they can bring their child while they attend doctors' appointments."



STEPHANIE GRISSOM | HERALD

Women and men take part in an Aqua Fit class in the heated pool at the ASYMCA Wellness Center in Harker Heights. Besides the pool, where swimming lessons are offered year-round, there is also a warm water therapy pool and sauna.

This program is available to all service members and their dependents, and provides up to two hours of child care during medical appointments.

Of course, there are programs and classes that are available to everyone, not solely military.

"We're not only available to the military," Carlson said. "We're open to the community."

For instance, Child Watch provides two hours of child care per day for members during workouts, and before-and after-school childcare programs are available at 41 different elementary schools in the Killeen, Copperas Cove, Florence, Belton, and Lampasas School Districts.

Holiday camps are offered during the spring and summer school breaks, and a traditional YMCA 12-week summer camp is offered during the summer break. A cooking camp and sports camp are both currently in development.

Kids' Night Out is also offered twice a month, which is an event where YMCA staff will provide child care for a nominal fee and children ages six months to 13 years can enjoy dinner, movies, and activities while parents can enjoy some time out of their own.

The ASYMCA Wellness Center is unique in its organization.

"We are the only Armed Services YMCA that has a Wellness facility and traditional YMCA programming anywhere," Carlson said.

Residential demand grows in 2018

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Harker Heights experienced continued demand for residential housing in 2018.

The city issued 160 single-family residential permits in 2018 vs 156 issued in 2017. The city's population is now estimated at 30,785 and growing.

With demand for residential lots remaining steady, the city issued four more residential permits in 2018 than in the prior year.

"The growth of the city is tracking 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 174 residential permits in 2018. Of those, 160 were for single-family homes, and 14 were for two-family homes.

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 Farm-to-Market 3481 recently began selling housing lots 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."

Chamber signs more members

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce kicked off 2019 by hosting its annual Awards and Celebration Banquet on Jan. 28.

Awards presented at the banquet were Chamber Ambassadors of the Year; Kern-Cox Founders Award, Small Business of the Year; Large Business of the Year; Outstanding Community Partner of the Year; Tourism Partner; Citizen of the Year; Police Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year.

The Board of Directors for 2019 are Ryan Shahan, chairman, assisted by Annmarie McKenna, Jim McKinnon, Tony Mino, Diane Walters, E.T. Ferris, Andy Bass, Kenda Pacheco, Zach Dietze, Eva Keagle, Luke Potts, Sam Halabi, Linda Angel, Curt Gaines and Andy Curtis.

The chamber, with a membership of 880, an increase over last year, continues to hold to its mission which is attracting new business to the city, retention of new business, supporting community partners, "Keepin' it Local, and sponsoring leadership opportunities.

Gina Pence, president and CEO of the chamber, said, "We firmly believe that our sponsors, business partners and volunteers are what makes our efforts successful."

Last year, the chamber launched a new nonprofit allowing them to give back to the community. The Harker Heights Food, Wine and Arts Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas culinary, arts and educational programming.

"This nonprofit stemmed from the success of the food, wine and brew fest that showcased local products and artists. The alliance will allow us to foster new growth in the arts culinary scene during 2019," Pence said.

The Chamber Food, Wine and Brew Fest is only one of several huge events that has a significant impact on the local economy.

Attendance has reached as high as 6,000, and after a slight drop due to the weather in 2018, the chamber expects numbers to be on the upswing this year. The fest is



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Representatives from Freedom Urgent Care/Seaton Medical Center accept the Large Business of the Year Award from Harker Heights Chamber President Gina Pence during the 2019 chamber banquet Jan. 28 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

held in September, each year.

Leadership opportunities range from small group workshops to the popular Vision XXI Program. This program is designed to enhance community leadership through shared knowledge and skill building. Classes will begin March 7 and will meet the first Thursday of each month from March through September with the Vision XXI Graduation Ceremony scheduled for Oct. 3.

In addition, to the monthly meetings, the class is challenged to create a class project that will benefit the residents of the community.

For the fourth year, the class teams up with Harker Heights High School by involving teens in the program.

Beyond the public events sponsored by the chamber, the staff spends many hours assisting chamber members in providing counseling about how to grow a business, maintain a strong group of consumers, marketing, technology and other useful tools that will make members successful.

One of the newer events to be held for the second year will be the Harker Heights Frosted Mug 5K Run that will again promote healthy living in 2019 through showcasing local vendors. The first run drew a crowd of 350 during a cold and wind-driven Saturday in December.

This fresh run that featured local craft beer incorporated into the run brought runners from all over Central Texas to our city.

"We'll be hosting several of these runs throughout this New Year," Pence said.

Mary Marie Multi-Use Center a highlight for Nolanville

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Heading into 2019, Nolanville's Comprehensive Plan continues to serve as an actionable tool for the City Council to achieve quality of life goals through incremental improvements, City Manager Kara Escajeda said.

"This past year, the City Council continued to work on the plan's objectives by focusing on a safe, active, walkable, clean and beautiful city," Escajeda said.

The Mary Marie Multi-Use Center was a top highlight for the city, Escajeda said.

"The ribbon cutting on Aug. 24 was a celebration in the completion of the project, and also signified the new commitment from the Central Texas Boys & Girls Club to operate an after school program that is free for Nolanville residents," she said.

The club offers a variety of programming, including a youth garden club, STEM club and sports club. The Center is also being used to host a variety of awareness activities.

Escajeda also noted city highlights in several other areas:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The city staff and boards placed special emphasis on community activities that would build identity and pride. The Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Senior Buzz were venues used to help develop new ideas for the city.

Last year the city held its first 100k bicycle ride in cooperation with King of the Mountain Cyclery. Other elements added to the Annual Train Whistle Jam-boree included the pie eating contest and car show.

Escajeda said, "We incorporated some smaller community events to include the Back to School Bash & Movie Nights with the help of Fry's Restaurant, Nolanville Lions Club and Economic Development Corporation."

She also noted a circus will be coming to Nolanville later this year.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Old Nolanville Road was a TxDOT Safe Routes School project completed in 2018. The improvements included side-



HERALD | FILE

The Mary Marie Multi-Use Center held a ribbon cutting Aug. 24 and houses the local Boys & Girls Club.

walks, widening of the road for shared use and a bus stop loop.

Main Street Connectivity is another TxDOT project that began in September and is scheduled to be completed at the end of this month.

The revitalization is still in progress but the positive results from the facelift are already very noticeable.

"Sidewalks leading to newly installed HOP bus shelters help the community identify alternative transportation resources; this is especially important for those on a fixed income," Escajeda said.

"Sidewalks and curbing also provide better drainage and improved safety for residents who walk to such services as the post office and food pantry.

"Landscaping features, that will set our Main Street apart from others, are funded with the Governor's Community Achievement Award presented to the City in March 2018."

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

2018 provided additional opportunities to further equip the park with the receipt of a large park grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Escajeda said.

The improvements will be installed over the course of three years with the basketball court to be the next element installed. The construction plans for the multi-use field and trails are currently under review and almost ready for bid. In subsequent years, residents can expect to see a skate park and dog park.

STEADY GROWTH

Planning & Zoning's major activity

for the year involved the Warrior's Path 850-home concept plan.

This plan will add at least one elementary school and a planned neighborhood commercial area.

P&Z also provided input regarding implementation of the Park's Master Plan in conjunction with the receipt of grant funding. The Cedar Heights development is nearly complete and housing construction continues at a steady rate in the Wildwood and Bella Charca subdivisions.

BUSINESS GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Andy Williams transitioned from EDC president to mayor last year. The City Council appointed Bryan Buck as the new EDC President. The Economic Development Corporation continues its focus on Main Street improvements designed to attract more commercial business to the city.

The EDC acquired a vacant lot on Main Street that will become a gathering space for the community and facilitate special events. The corner of Paddy Hamilton and Interstate 14 recently broke ground for a new wellness center and retail space.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Under the leadership of Chief of Police Daniel Porter and his command staff, the Nolanville Police Department continues its proactive engagement with the city's residents and business community.

The Police Department has teamed with various state and other local agencies to combat street crimes and human trafficking offenses in the central Texas area.

With the opening of the Boys & Girls Club in the new Nolanville City Park, the Police Department is taking advantage of the opportunity to engage with area youth in a positive way.

The Police Department has partnered with the National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI) to provide training and education for officers regarding mental health services and support for city employees and residents that employees may meet.

Florence chamber expects growth; city plans new pool complex

BY ERIN ESKEW
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Although no new businesses opened in the last year, president of the chamber of commerce Peggy Morse predicts both residential and commercial growth in the coming year.

There are currently 34 members in the Florence Chamber of Commerce, Morse said.

Lone Star Aggregate, which moved to Florence last year, is open and is thriving, Morse said.

"There was a great deal of concern when the community first heard the asphalt plant was coming to our area," Morse said. "Throughout the process, the company's representatives assured the community that they would be good neighbors and diligently follow all rules and regulations for blasting."

Neighbors expressed concern about one dynamite explosion shortly after the company opened because they weren't given prior notice, Morse said. Residents had told the Herald they were concerned about the company's use of water and whether that would curtail supply in the strained Middle Trinity Aquifer and about truck traffic related to the business.

Morse said Lone Star Aggregate was initially not registered as a mining company.

"That certification was quickly acquired and neighbors are notified

in advance of any blasting that takes place," Morse said.

Salado Creek Saloon and Sunset Acres Dog Ranch, which opened at the end of 2017 are thriving, she said.

Salado Creek Saloon is doing great offers a full bar, along with special attractions, such as live bands on the weekends, multiple televisions tuned to sporting events, karaoke, pool tables, shuffleboards and more, Morse said.

"Sunset Acres Dog Ranch continues to offer boarding for dogs, and are known for the excellent care they give to all their four-legged boarders," Morse said.

Plans are in the works for the owner of the historic building at 211 E. Main to remodel it and open a coffee shop.

"Melanie Jamison still plans to remodel the building at 209 E. Main and open Blacksmith Coffee," Morse said.

The old Remington Savings & Loan Building was purchased in 2017 by Randy Smedley of Georgetown, and he restored it in the past year, Morse said.

She expects it will go on the market for sale or lease in the next few weeks.

"Randy did an awesome job bringing the building back to life, maintaining much of its historic character, while adding improvements that make it even better than before," Morse said. "It has new beautiful windows and doors on the front of the structure, as well as the rear, which sport antique glass, which adds to its appeal."

Florence has also seen growth in hous-

ing options.

"Four new homes were built in town and two older homes were completely remodeled," Morse said. "Two of the new homes are occupied, as well as the remodeled older home. The other three homes are on the market."

Two parcels of land were rezoned to multifamily, Morse said, and the city hopes the ground will break on those projects in the coming year.

Along with new residential possibilities, Florence is looking forward to opening a new city pool complex, Morse said.

"The City received the final contract on the pool complex this past week," Morse said.

The pool is projected to open this summer, but a firm date has not been set she said.

"The pool complex will be beautiful and such a great amenity for our town," Morse said. "The pool was financed through a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant, with the City matching funds, and all completed within the projected budget."

The Florence Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Chamber Banquet on April 18, beginning at 6 p.m. in The Vineyard at Florence Belle Amore event center.

"This year the Chamber is spotlighting The Gault Archaeological Site and celebrating the Gault's certification of the oldest habitation in the Americas," Morse said.

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Salado sees steady revenue increase

BY ERIN ESKEW

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

There are several contributing factors to recent growth for the village of Salado — and that progress is projected to continue.

“We’ve seen a steady and consistent increase in sales tax revenues over the past 12 months,” said Village Administrator Don Ferguson.

Ferguson attributes much of that growth to the completion of the Texas Department of Transportation construction project widening the interstate.

“For a few years it was difficult to get to Salado because of the construction,” Ferguson said. “I think people are rediscovering Salado and the unique things it has to offer.”

Another main contributor to growth in the area is the wastewater treatment plant projected to be completed this month, he said.

“We’re expecting the entire system to be online by the end of March if not early April,” Ferguson said. “It has been a long time coming, but



HERALD | FILE

Swimmers cool off in Salado Creek in Salado.

we’re excited we are going to see this project become a reality.”

Ferguson projects the wastewater plant will spark growth the community hasn’t seen in years.

“With the addition of a full-functioning state-of-the-art wastewater system, we’ve seen an increase in interest from subdivision developers,” Ferguson said. “We are in active discussions with at

least three subdivision developers and my hunch is there will be more in the future.”

But Salado’s growth isn’t all focused on dreams for the future. With the reopening of the Stagecoach Inn, the village has seen increased hotel tax revenue, Ferguson said.

Businesses are reporting increased revenues, he said.

“It’s one of those landmark facilities that people relate to Salado and I think its return

and the quality redevelopment that has occurred will be increasingly beneficial to the city for years to come,” Ferguson said. “It has been a plus so far and it will continue to be.”

In the coming year, Salado ISD will begin construction on a multimillion-dollar bond package that was approved in 2018, he said.

A few small shops have opened in Salado, but Ferguson reported no significant growth in the business sector in the past year.

Looking ahead, work is also underway for the residential and commercial sanctuary development on the south side of Salado, Ferguson said.

“We should see dirt being turned on that project by the end of the year,” he said. “It’s a pretty significant development for a small community.”

The police chief of Salado recently took a job in south Texas, Ferguson said, so the village is currently searching for someone to fill that position.

“Other than that our forces remain stable,” he said.

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Belton has new businesses, plans for growth

BY DAVID PERDUE
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Planners in Belton say the city could have over 30,000 people living there by 2030. That's why the city is already laying the groundwork for future industrial and retail development.

City staffers involved in planning economic development and infrastructure say Belton is moving at just the right pace to meet future needs.

Cynthia Hernandez, Belton Economic Development Corporation executive director, said projects such as an expansion of water and sewer lines into South Belton show the city is business ready.

"We understand that if infrastructure is in the ground, it certainly makes it more desirable for development."

But the city isn't moving faster than it needs to, said Public Works Director Angelia Points.

"You don't want to get too far ahead of yourself," Points said. "We want to be very wise about how we spend taxpayer dollars." Points said taking on water and sewer projects too soon wastes money, because the city has to pay to maintain that infrastructure whether it's used or not.

Currently, the city is extending a sewer line along Interstate 35 toward south Belton, and a corresponding water project funded by the BEDC is also in the works. Points said the extension may be shovel-ready by the end of this year, but it's more likely to start in 2020. The city is currently negotiating easements with landowners to run sewer and water on the east side of Interstate 35 to the Lampasas River. "(It's a) real cool juggling act," Points said, adding



MICHAEL MILLER | FME NEWS SERVICE

Workers clear dirt for a boring pit on Loop 121 near Holland Road in Belton on June 14.

that she's "trying to fit all the puzzle pieces together" to get out of the planning phase and start construction.

Retail development is also on Belton's radar for 2019.

Judy Garrett, who leads the city's retail and tourism efforts, said several big-name brands will be coming to Belton this year. Among them is Tractor Supply Company, which should break ground for a new store in Belton near Interstate 14 and Connell Street later this year. Garrett called the new store a "game changer" that should help attract other big names to the city. She said two major hotel brands are planning new construction near the Bell County Expo Center, which completed a \$30 million expansion last year.

Garrett said a major reason for the smooth progress of

development in Belton is cooperation.

"The City Council, the City Manager, the mayor, the Economic Development Corporation, the Belton Chamber ... we all work together, she said. "We're all on the same team and we work together to make sure we maintain the right pace."

The city isn't forgetting about the downtown area. A major renovation of East Street between Central Avenue and First Street will begin later this year. The project includes changes in the sidewalks and parking areas and the addition of antique lighting to match the current look of Central Avenue.

BEDC head Hernandez said a grant to help pay for the project fell through, so her organization stepped forward

with the money to fund it. The BEDC is also planning to restore a historic building and move back into the downtown area once renovations are complete.

But the city isn't overlooking the quality of life of its residents.

Belton spokesman Paul Romer said the city scored a big development win last year when it expanded Heritage Park. The city council spent about \$2 million to acquire 85 acres of land to expand the popular park. Romer said economic development can and should be tied to projects like the park expansion.

"We continue to make this a place where people want to live, where there is good quality of life," Romer said. "And, as those rooftops continue to multiply, we believe that retail growth naturally will follow."

Darnall offers multiple ways for troops, families to receive care

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood has been 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 in-patient 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 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.

Darnall also offers four U.S. Army Medical Homes in the community to provide medical care off-post for active-duty soldiers, retirees and their families.

Army medical facilities function as family-practice clinics off post and work in conjunction with the hospital.

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



LISA DAVIDSON | HERALD

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center commander Col. David R. Gibson, left, and hospital Command

certification and are in the review process for recertification.

Each clinic is capable of servicing more than 8,000 patients. The clinics offer women's health care, well baby and child exams, sports physicals and school immunizations, minor surgery, a pharmacy and laboratory services.

LOCATIONS

The Killeen facility is at 3404 Kaydence

Court, off Elms Road near Stan Schluter Loop.

The West Killeen Medical Home is located at 5200 Bunny Trail.

The Harker Heights Medical Home is in the Market Heights shopping center at 201 E. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 200.

The Copperas Cove Medical Home Clinic is at 458 Town Square on West Business Highway 190.

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Clinic offers free care in Killeen

BY LISA DAVIDSON
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Greater Killeen Community Clinic takes care of the medical needs of thousands of patients every year — completely free of charge.

The clinic, at 718 N. Second St., Suite A in Killeen, was



DiLillo

formerly known as the Greater Killeen Free Clinic.

Executive Director Marlene DiLillo explained how the name change symbolizes the beginning of a rebranding the clinic is undergoing.

"We are going to have our 25th anniversary next year so we are going to be off to changing our logo and having a big celebration," she said.

The clinic offers free and unbiased health care services to give everyone the opportunity to get the medical help they require. While most patients are not able to afford the complete treatment, part of the rebranding is to remind patients to take a share of their treatment plan.

"We started asking our patients to contribute a small amount towards their care," DiLillo said. "We don't turn patients away — we grant waivers" for those who can't donate.

The Greater Killeen Community Clinic provides walk-in acute care services for primary care visits as well as chronic disease management by appointment. Check-in times are 3:30 p.m. on Mon-

days and Thursdays, and 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Additional services include psychiatric health as well as dental and optometry care by referral.

More importantly, however, DiLillo wants everyone to know that there are places to go if someone is in need for medical care and worried about the bill following the appointment.

"A lot of people know someone who doesn't have health insurances, it might be someone at your church, it might be a relative of yours but there are a lot of charity clinics around that can help people," she said. "Sometimes people just don't know how to ask."

INDIGENT HEALTH

Bell County Indigent Health Services Department helps provide health care to low income adults who do not have minor children or do not have a disability, according to the organization at 309 Priest Drive in Killeen.

The department manages health claims processing and works closely with the Greater Killeen Free Clinic and other organizations. Scheduled to start soon is a pharmacy assistance program that aims to get high-cost medications free for clients. The department is also working to improve its social navigation, linking clients to the right provider or organization that can help.

For more information, go to http://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/indigent_health_services/index.php.

Seton Medical Center earns community awards

BY LUCY TAYLOR

SETON MEDICAL CENTER

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

Most recently, the readers of the Killeen Daily Herald voted the hospital the best in Central Texas.

Dr. Jeremy Swain, DO, was also named one of the best family physicians.

More area residents are now able to access Seton Medical Center and its staff of 500 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 Medical Center remains a chest pain accredited center and offers the newest methods and best practices in diagnostic and interventional heart care to ensure that patients receive the right care at the right time during the critical stages of a heart attack.

Seton Medical Center also offers EKOS, a state-of-the-art technology that uses ultrasound to assist in the elimination of pulmonary emboli. This technology results in positive outcomes while dissolving clots in the main vessels in the lungs and reducing the risk of bleeding and death.

This technology is also offered for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis in lower extremities.

SMCHH highly trained cath lab staff and board-certified cardiologists are able to use this technology in the Heart and Vascular Center at any time of the day or night.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights

was recently recognized by The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is the first facility in the region to receive certification for Advanced Hip and Knee Replacement.

To ease patient stress and provide valuable information before surgery, SMCHH offers the Active Again Total Joint Program. The Program, which is offered twice a month, helps patients understand what to expect the morning of surgery as well as care for after surgery.

Patients will meet medical staff and pre-register for their surgery, thus eliminating registration wait time the day of the surgery.

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.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights’s partnership with Freedom Urgent Care continues to flourish. Freedom Urgent Care now has two clinics — the original clinic is located on the access road of I-14 near Seton Medical Center Harker Heights; the second clinic is located on W.S. Young Drive in Killeen.

Seton Harker Heights also continued to take its patient care outside into the community. An 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.

The clinic is devoted to physical, occupational and speech therapy, and the partnership growth between SMCHH and ASYMCA is substantial.

Its most notable expansion is the ASYMCA Warm Water Therapeutic Pool. The SMCHH Therapy Services Aquatic

Program, which takes place three days per week, and treats patients in a warm water therapeutic environment.

Additionally, Seton Harker Heights continues to staff providers at the Greater Killeen Free Clinic to support the clinic’s chronic disease management program. This partnership focuses on continued care to prevent unnecessary readmissions and help patients manage their care successfully.

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

“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

PLEASE SEE **SETON, 47**



Indigent Health Services Department of Bell County

The Mission of the Indigent Health Services Department of Bell County is to be an effective local government committed to providing financial access to health services, including mental health services for County residents.

For more information, please call 254-519-1229 or visit website www.bellcountytexas.com or Email frank.tyquienco@bellcounty.texas.gov

Interested in Volunteering?

Please call 254-618-4194

Baylor Scott & White promotes health, wellness

BY BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE

As the largest not-for-profit health system in Texas, Baylor Scott & White Health promotes the health and well-being of every individual, family and community it serves. If its service area were a state, it would be the eighth largest, providing care to a population larger than that of the state of Georgia.

Founded as a Christian ministry of healing, Baylor Scott & White is proud to honor its century-long legacy through its commitment to improving accessibility, affordability and the customer experience for all. Locally, several primary care clinics continue to serve the community, including Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Killeen, which has served for more than 38 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 Baylor Scott & White Specialty Clinic-Killeen Hemingway include: cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, general surgery, pulmonary, neurology and more. The clinic's pain management services support a variety of outpatient services, including spinal cord stimulation to help manage chronic pain symptoms.

Baylor Scott & White Mental Health Clinic-Harker Heights provides adult mental health services as well as child and adolescent mental health care.

Baylor Scott & White Cancer Center-Killeen on the Advent Health Central Texas campus has hematology/oncology and radiation oncology services, including an anti-coagulation clinic with same-day appointments.

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Temple, a Baylor Scott & White flagship, has 636 beds and is the only Level I trauma center between Austin and Dallas. It continues to provide personalized, quality care, in addition to supporting medical education and research.

Central Texas care needs — from colds

to chronic illnesses to complex surgical procedures and transplants — continue to be at the forefront of an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to achieve greater care coordination, reduce wait times and improve the patient experience.

In 2018, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Temple earned several awards for excellence, including the prestigious Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center certification from The Joint Commission.

"The award demonstrates the highest quality in acute stroke care possible," said Dr. Jennifer Rasmussen, a neurologist on the medical staff. "... It indicates that we have expertise from critical care, neurosurgery, stroke neurology, vascular surgery, emergency medicine, and hospital medicine, plus we provide care to our stroke patients in the outpatient setting through a transition-of-care clinic.

"This integrated and standardized care helps every patient get high quality care," said Rasmussen.

MCLANE CHILDREN'S

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple is the area's only Level IV pediatric trauma facility. The new designation from the Texas Department of State Health Services in 2018 made it the lone Level IV neonatal intensive care unit in the Baylor Scott & White Health system, and placed it with just 12 in the state and among the highest-designated in the nation.

As the only children's medical center between Dallas and Austin, McLane Children's NICU cares for 800-1000 patients annually, with infants ranging from 22 weeks gestation to term. The newest accomplishment demonstrates McLane Children's ability to offer the highest quality of care to the most complex and fragile patients. As a Level IV NICU, the unit incorporates a full range of pediatric sub-specialists as well as a surgical team that is on site and available around the clock for consultation, care and emergency intervention. More than 15 departments work together daily to address the babies' complex conditions and on-going medical needs.

McLane Children's celebrated seven years of service Oct. 4, 2018.

In June 2018, a new logo was unveiled that renewed our unwavering commitment to patients, families and the community—a toy train. Our new logo reminds us of our legacy with a nod to our railroad roots in Temple, while keeping us mindful of our purpose in health care and in caring for pediatric patients.

Since opening in 2011, McLane Children's has recorded more than: 1.6 million clinic visits (about 250,000 last fiscal year alone); 189,000 emergency department visits; 31,000 surgeries; and 28,000 inpatient discharges. McLane Children's offers pediatric services, including primary care, at the Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Clinic-Killeen.

2018 AWARDS

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award and the association's Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus award.

The American Heart Association and The Joint Commission: Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification — Highest Quality in Acute Stroke Care possible

Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) Gold Level Center of Excellence Award

American Heart Association: 2018 Mission: Lifeline STEMI Receiving Center - Gold Plus Recognition Award

The Diabetes Education Center at Baylor Scott & White in Temple received a renewal of the prestigious American Diabetes Association (ADA) Education Recognition Award for the highest quality diabetes self-management education program.

Recognized in U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals list, ranked No. 16 in the state. Ranked Best Regional Hospital. Rated as high performing in four procedures and conditions:

- Colon Cancer Surgery
- Congestive Heart Failure
- COPD
- Knee Replacement

The Clinical Sciences Institute (CSI) of Optum:Center of Excellence (COE) for Bariatrics — Awarded July 2018

Baylor Scott & White is among Becker's Healthcare 2018 list of hospitals and health systems with innovation programs.

Metroplex changes name, leadership in 2018

BY KATELYN ROBERTSON
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Metroplex Adventist Hospital of Killeen underwent some major changes in 2018, including a new name and a new CEO.

Adventist Health System was re-branded and renamed AdventHealth.

The hospital is owned by the Altamonte Springs company, which boasts over 80,000 employees and nearly 50 hospital campuses across nine states. The re-branding of the hospital will not affect ownership or business structure, hospital officials said.

However, each campus was individually named, and in many cases, it was unclear that the campuses shared affiliation. Adventist Health System was seeking to create an optimized health care system by creating a more unified front and streamlining technology to allow information to be shared between locations.

“Hopefully this will give our patients even higher levels of care. Our health system is unifying under one name



Roberts

which means we will have greater resources as a whole,” said Metroplex spokeswoman Erin Riley in December.

Helping to lead the name change was Kevin Roberts, who assumed his role as CEO on Sept. 24.

Roberts reports to Ken Finch who serves as president/CEO for both Adventist Health System’s Southwest Region and Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South.

“Kevin’s wealth of experience and familiarity with the Adventist health care ministry, combined with his exceptional track record of hospital leadership, will be very beneficial in leading Metroplex Health System,” Finch said in a press release issued by the hospital. “We are excited to have him join our organization and confident the hospitals will thrive under his leadership and direction.”

Roberts has been with Adventist Health for more than

20 years and has previously served as president/CEO for Adventist Health Glendale, a 500-plus bed hospital in the Los Angeles, California, area. His experience also includes serving in leadership roles as president/CEO for Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Hawaii, and chief operating officer and chief nursing officer for South Coast Medical Center in Laguna Beach, California.

In November, over 360 people attended Metroplex Health System Foundation’s 24th annual Gold Star Gala, one of the major fundraising events the foundation hosts each year.

The event concluded with Foundation Board Chairman Larry Linder presenting a \$100,000 check to Roberts.

The money from the gala is being put toward a three-year plan to build a new wellness center on the Metroplex campus. The facility will house community programs such as free wellness classes, support groups, health screenings, flu shot clinics and healthy cooking classes.

Metroplex currently hosts 13 workout classes in board rooms and meeting rooms throughout the hospital. These classes are at maximum capacity, and people are often turned away, according to community wellness coordinator Sarah Kennedy.

“The new facility will allow us to offer programs to the community that promote a healthy lifestyle in a safe environment,” Kennedy said Thursday.

SETON

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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 Calee Travis said, “Quality and safety in our hospital is of the highest importance to us. We strive to utilize best practices and give the best patience centered care. We continually look for ways to meet the needs of our community.”

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

Lucy Taylor is a marketing and communication specialist with Seton Medical Center Harker Heights.

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RELIGION



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

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



ARTIE PHILLIPS | HERALD

The newly constructed Family Life Center at Greater Vision Community Church in Killeen is seen Feb. 12, days before the building's official dedication ceremony.

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

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

Simmons ville 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

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 Samakkhi
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 (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Cantico Nuevo
1801 Rancier, Killeen 258-2958

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1301 Trimmer, K 526-2179

Copperas Cove Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1908 Morrow D.C.C. 547-2486

Iglesia Christiana 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 Trimmer, 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

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 Trimmer, 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

The True Vine Church of God
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

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

Bread of Life Church of God in Christ
2300 E Rancier Ave, Suite 108, K 254-768-0068

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 Georgetown Road, CC 547-5493

West End Church of God in Christ
3601 South W.S. Young Dr, Killeen 254-213-5511

COWBOY
5 Hills Cowboy Church
139 CR 4630 Kempner, TX 290-6005

Maxdale Cowboy Church
2754 Briggs Rd, Killeen TX 76549 254-793-2110 • 254-368-2563

Soldiers of the Cross Cowboy Fellowship
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Pastor Danny Brey - 462-8890
EASTERN ORTHODOX
Eastern Orthodox
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EPISCOPALIAN
Darnall Army Hospital
FH 288-8850

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2800 Trimmer, 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

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FH, 287-6114

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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 Congregation
(Multi-Purpose Education & Activity Center) 1410 Trimmer 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

INTERDENOMINATIONAL
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
19th Street Chapel, 19th Street
and Battalion Avenue

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 Fellow-
ship
Old Post Chapel, 761st Tank
Destroyer Blvd 512-556-3514

Grace Lutheran Church LCMS
Trimnier & 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

Fortress Lutheran Church
(LCMS)
13960 E. Knights Way, HH 254-
393-0669
www.fortress.today

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 Meth-
odist Church
Cardinal & Harley, HH 699-6271

Hillside Evangelical Method-
ist Church
2602 S FM 116, CC

Kempner United Methodist
Church
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 Method-
ist 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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Abundant Life Christian
Church
Amazing Grace Fellowship
1600 E Rancier Ave, K 290-0403

Antioch Fellowship Minis-
tries
Church of God & Christ
210 W Mary Jane, K 634-2101

Agape Christian Center
321 N Penelope, Belton 939-9673

Bethesda Fellowship Min-
istries
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 Power-
house 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
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Gift of Life Ministry
5802 Wedel Cemetery Rd
Heidenheimer, 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

Iglesia 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-
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Movement of Faith Interna-
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New Life Fellowship
708 East Fourth, 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
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 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

Word of Life Fellowship Church
215 S. 8th St, K 254-519-0802

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 Army, 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

Iglesia 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, Trimmier 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
420 E Avenue C, 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 Pent. Church, Inc.
5010 Trimmier 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

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1726 Morgan's Point Road, Morgan's Point 780-1008



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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.
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2018 a busy year for Fort Hood troops and families

BY DAVID A. BRYANT

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Q uite a few things went on in 2018 for Fort Hood, keeping troopers — and their families — busy with deployments, homecomings, training, celebrations and more.

100 YEARS OF III CORPS

On May 16, the “Phantom Warriors” Corps celebrated 100 years of service to the nation. As the command team of “America’s Hammer” was in Iraq, however, the festivities had to wait until October when the III Corps headquarters element returned. Between Oct. 6 and Oct. 20, a wide variety of activities were scheduled, a two-week celebration called Operation Phantom Warrior Salute.

Highlights included a variety of events for the Fort Hood Commanders Cup, where soldiers competed for titles such as Best Sapper, Best Combat Medic and more, with teams from Fort Hood and Fort Bliss in Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Carson, Colorado attending. The celebration concluded with a celebration of National Night Out and a concert featuring the 1st Cavalry Division Band and Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band.

WWE

World Wrestling Entertainment brought the superstars to Fort Hood in early December to film the 16th annual “Tribute to the Troops.” Legendary Hall of Famers Ric Flair and Kurt Angle, and rising Superstar Mojo Rawley, kicked off the day early by joining the troops for physical training before sitting down to have breakfast with the troops. Former Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter and actress Ronda Rousey had the troops on their feet as she stepped into the ring for the first major match of the event.

NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS

In October, Fort Hood officials said the



ERIC VON FRANKLIN | HERALD

Actor Gary Sinise performs with the Lt. Dan Band on Oct. 20 as part of Fort Hood's celebration of III Corps' 100th anniversary.

post moved Native American human remains — some of which are more than 500 years old — off post. The remains included roughly eight people and were sent to the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma. Fort Hood had never before transferred bones to a tribe.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was reportedly made by Fort Hood officials in consultation with representatives of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Caddo Nation, Comanche Nation, Kiowa Tribe, Mescalero Apache tribe, Tonkawa Tribe and Wichita and affiliated tribes. Fort Hood officials determined that the human remains represented the aboriginal land of the Tonkawa Tribe.

EDUCATION

An international manufacturing company announced in November a major, long-term investment into training Fort Hood soldiers for the manufacturing industry.

Megan Pollock, vice president of strategic communications for Samsung, a South Korean multi-national conglomerate headquartered in Seoul, said the corporation will provide \$1 million over the next three years for the Heroes MAKE America program on Fort Hood.

The announcement was made during a

luncheon hosted by the national Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing

INSTITUTE

The Manufacturing Institute partnered with Fort Hood's Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program to provide the 10-week Heroes MAKE America course for soldiers transitioning out of the Army and provides critical training and certifications for manufacturing careers, said Carolyn Lee, executive director of The Manufacturing Institute.

DEPLOYMENTS

There are more than 6,400 Fort Hood soldiers currently deployed to places such as Europe, Kuwait, Afghanistan and the U.S.-Mexico border. Deployed units include elements of the 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 1st Medical Brigade, 48th Chemical Brigade, 11th Signal Brigade, 36th Engineer Brigade, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is in the process of returning from a nine-month rotation to Europe and is expected to return fully by the end of March.

Fort Hood currently has a little more than 36,000 troops assigned to the post.

Old Darnall hospital becomes Shoemaker Center

BY DAVID A. BRYANT

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The old Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center hospital was renamed after a local legend during a ceremony at the old hospital in January.

The newly named Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker Center will host a variety of services intended for troops and their families, to include Child and Youth Services, Army Community Services, the Soldier for Life/Transition Assistance Program, Army Substance Abuse Program, survivor outreach programs and more, according to Col. Henry “Hank” Perry, Fort Hood garrison commander.

The newly renovated Samuel Adams Brewery on post — next to Club Hood — also held a grand opening in January. A Super Bowl viewing party on Feb. 3 was the first official event at the Samuel Adams Brewery, not counting its grand opening.

Shoppers of the Clear Creek Army & Air Force Exchange Service can now enjoy the newest attraction of the shopping

mall: A new cryotherapy center that is the first of its kind on a military installation, which opened in November.

The wellness center is operated by U.S. Cryotherapy and offers a variety of cold therapy services.

Kevin Kramer, CEO and founder of U.S. Cryotherapy, said at the grand opening that he is excited about the opportunity to serve the military community.

“This is really exciting because we get to go into a new segment with active and retired military personnel that we can help and treat for recovery,” he said.

The cold therapy services include whole-body cryotherapy for the relief of muscle soreness, faster recovery and enhanced athletic performance.

In April, Congressman John Carter, R-Round Rock, visited Fort Hood to get an update on barracks renovations. Carter represents Congressional District 31, which includes Fort Hood, and serves on the Defense Appropriations Committee whose job it is to oversee how defense spending is being carried out.

Fort Hood is in the process of restoring

all Q3 and Q4 barracks. Q3 and Q4 are building quality ratings that Fort Hood’s public works department assigns to facilities during inspections. The ratings have four categories ranging from one to four, with four being the lowest failing grade a building can receive.

Carter said the barracks renovations is an ongoing 10-year project that is crucial stays on schedule.

“\$56 million from the fiscal year 2017 funding for defense is approved for projects under contract to renovate five of the Rolling Pin barracks with an expected completion date of 2019,” Carter said.

About 10,000 Fort Hood soldiers live in barracks.

Fort Hood’s Directorate of Public Works hosted a ribbon-cutting in March to officially open the Old Georgetown Road Bridge. The \$9.7-million bridge was completed at “Jackson’s Crossing” where Georgetown Road crosses Cowhouse Creek. The 450-foot bridge replaced an old condemned bridge and a low-water crossing, Fort Hood officials said.

Fort Hood troops continue to lead fight against terrorism in Southwest Asia

BY DAVID A. BRYANT

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood soldiers have been instrumental in the fight against the Islamic State and terrorist organizations throughout Southwest Asia, with elements of III Corps headquarters leading the way.

III Corps and Fort Hood commander Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II and about 350 III Corps soldiers returned in September from a year-long deployment to serve as the headquarters for more than 70 nations that are part of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve. The coalition provides training, advice and assistance to Iraqi and Syrian forces, to include direct artillery and airstrikes on enemy forces.

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment “Brave Rifles” returned in late January 2019 from a nine-month deployment to Iraq to fight against the Islamic State.

From remote firebases along the Syria

border where Iraqi, French and U.S. artillery units fired side-by-side, to facilitating joint clearance operations for Iraqi and Kurdish forces hunting ISIS fighters in remote mountain locations, the Brave Rifles executed a variety of advise and assist missions.

The 504th Military Intelligence Brigade returned home to Fort Hood in September from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan.

Tasked with providing land and air intelligence support to U.S., Afghan and NATO troops participating in Operation Resolute Support, the soldiers completed more than 8,000 human and counterintelligence reports, more than 20,000 signals intelligence reports, had mission command of over 68,000 ground and aerial intelligence support requests and over 18,000 counterintelligence screenings — the details of which are mostly classified.

More than 200 soldiers of the 154th Composite Trucking Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade returned in September after a nine-month deployment to Kuwait.

The mission of the soldiers was to ensure all U.S. military units heading to areas within Southwest Asia got their equipment to where it needed to go, according to an August interview with the company’s commander, Capt. Nathaniel A. McDermott. The unit was also responsible for multi-class distribution as well, which included everything from general supplies and ammunition to medical supplies.

Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters, to include at least one deputy commander, are scheduled to head to Afghanistan sometime in the early part of 2019, according to an Army release. Less than 100 soldiers from the headquarters will replace 40th Infantry Division Headquarters, California Army National Guard, as part of a regular rotation of forces in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

III Corps returns from Middle East, celebrates 100 years of service

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Fort Hood's leading headquarters unit — III Corps — returned from a yearlong deployment to the Middle East in September 2018. Lt. Gen. Paul Funk II, III Corps and Fort Hood commander, led Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria during the deployment.

Combat operations against the Islamic State, in conjunction with Iraqi and Coalition forces, were so effective that it caused the Iraqi Prime Minister to declare in December 2017 the complete liberation of Iraq from ISIS, more than a year ahead of the time it was expected to take, Funk said. There is still an ISIS presence in Iraq, but it is now more of an ideology only.

"The way to peace there now is not through bullets, it's through hope," he added. "Speaking of hope, on the Syrian side you have the Syrian Democratic Forces and our great SOF partners, special operations (forces) partners, working to finish the last part of our mission to annihilate ISIS."

III Corps soldiers are not just in the

Middle East fighting against ISIS — they are in 40 countries and on almost every continent, Funk said.

"At any snapshot in time, we have anywhere from 15,000 to 18,000 deployed across the globe," he said. "Another 18,000, 15,000, getting ready to go behind them and others coming home. It's a constant cycle."

On May 16, the corps officially celebrated 100 years of service to the nation. With the command team in Iraq, III Corps waited until October to host a two-week-long anniversary celebration, Operation Phantom Warrior Salute, featuring competitions in sports and military occupational specialties and culminating in a concert by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Kamper is currently serving as the deputy commander for operations and British Maj. Gen. Felix Gedney is the deputy commander for support. Col. Brett G. Sylvia is the corps' chief of staff and the senior enlisted advisor is Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex.

III Corp 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 Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, 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.

Currently, eight of the 10 armored brigade combat teams in the Army are in III Corps, comprised of 88,360 soldiers. There are 144 artillery pieces, 64 (Multiple Launch Rocket Systems) and 16 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. The corps has three of the eight Stryker brigade combat teams in the Army and four of the 12 combat aviation brigades, which include a total of 192 AH-64 Apache helicopters and 21 MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aerial vehicles. The corps also has 1,008 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and 696 tanks.

Units within the corps do six combat training center rotations a year, and the division and corps headquarters will participate in three warfighters exercises this year, which are large training exercises.

New leadership takes over major Fort Hood units in 2018

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

III Corps saw some new leadership in 2018 as Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Kamper took over as the deputy commander of operations from Maj. Gen. John C. Thomson III. British Army Maj. Gen. Felix Gedney took over as the deputy commander for support from British Maj. Gen. Douglas Chalmers. In mid-January 2019, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex took over as the III Corps and Fort Hood senior enlisted advisor. He replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Crosby, who left in October to become the senior enlisted advisor for the newly created Army Futures Command in Austin. While not as many units changed hands as in 2017, there were still a few other major command changes in the past year.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

The largest unit at Fort Hood, the 1st Cavalry Division, welcomed two new deputy commanders in 2018. Brig. Gen. Miles Brown took over as deputy commander for support and Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Norrie as deputy commander for maneuver.

13TH EXPEDITIONARY

Fort Hood's 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command welcomed a new commanding general in May during a change of command ceremony at Sadowski Field. Brig. Gen. Darren L. Werner took over the command from Brig. Gen. Douglas McBride Jr.

U.S. ARMY OPERATIONAL TEST COMMAND

Brig. Gen. William "Hank" Taylor, a former 1st Cavalry Division deputy commander, took command of the U.S.

Army Operational Test Command from Brig. Gen. John C. Ulrich. Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Justice also assumed responsibility as the new senior enlisted advisor from Sgt. Maj. Danny G. Boivin, who had stepped up Sept. 6 to fill in the vacant position left by Command Sgt. Maj. Mario Terenas. Terenas had been assigned as the new senior enlisted advisor for U.S. Army Cadet Command (ROTC), Fort Knox, Kentucky. OTC is responsible for testing new equipment for the Army and is comprised of a mixture of more than 200 soldiers and more than 300 Department of the Army civilians.

1ST AIR CAVALRY BRIGADE

Col. Lance K. Van Zandt replaced Col. Cain Baker as the commander of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

PLEASE SEE **LEADERS, 58**

Major Fort Hood units stay busy around the globe in 2018

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The largest unit at Fort Hood, the 1st Cavalry Division, welcomed two new deputy commanders in 2018. Brig. Gen. Miles Brown took over as deputy commander for support and Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Norrie as deputy commander for maneuver,

Elements of the division deployed and returned across the globe, with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team returning in February 2017 from a nine-month rotation to South Korea, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team deploying to Europe for Operation Atlantic Resolve and returning starting in January of 2019, and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade also returning from Europe, where they served as the air support for Atlantic Resolve.

Roughly two-thirds of the 1st Brigade's 3,000 soldiers who deployed to Europe are home, with the remainder due home by the end of March.

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team wrapped up a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and could deploy later this year.

Sadly, the division lost two soldiers to training accidents in January 2019.

Spc. Andrew S. Ortega, 32, a horizontal construction engineer with the division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, was killed in an accident in the Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany. Spc. Octavious Deshon Lakes Jr., 22, died from injuries sustained in a tactical vehicle accident at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. He was with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment wrapped up a nine-month deployment to Iraq supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the effort to ensure the lasting defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, with a colors uncasing ceremony at the end of January to mark the unit's official return to Fort Hood.

The U.S. Army Operational Test Command saw new leadership come in



SGT. PHILLIP MCTAGGART | U.S. ARMY

U.S. Army soldiers assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment fire their M777 howitzer on Firebase Saham, Iraq, on Dec. 8 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve against ISIS.

as Brig. Gen. William "Hank" Taylor, a former 1st Cavalry Division deputy commander, took command and Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Justice stepped in as the senior enlisted advisor.

As the Army's only independent operational tester, OTC tests Army, joint and multi-service warfighting systems in realistic operational environments, using typical users to provide data on whether the systems are effective, suitable and survivable. One of the major pieces of equipment tested in 2018 was the new Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, or AMPV, which is the proposed upgrade to the Army's aging and widely used M-113 personnel carrier family of vehicles that have been in service since the Vietnam War era.

At the end of January 2019, OTC began celebrating "50 Years of Operational Testing."

Fort Hood's 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command welcomed Brig. Gen. Darren L. Werner as its new commanding general in May during a change of command ceremony at Sadowski Field.

First Army Division West celebrated the reactivation of the 166th "Archangels" Aviation Training Brigade.

The unit was inactivated in 2015 during the Army's drawdown, but was officially reactivated in June thanks to funding approved by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

BY HOTDA

The Heart of Texas Defense Alliance is a regional nonprofit 501c(6) 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 2018, HOTDA continued support to multiple regional efforts.

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

Although implementation funding of the 2016 Fort Hood Joint Land Use study ended in 2018. The alliance continues to work with regional cities and counties on the recommendations from the study. A related milestone in 2018 was the application, award and completion of a \$300K grant from the Office of Economic Assessment. The grant funded a Feasibility Study for a potential Joint Use Military-Civilian Rail/Truck Multi-Modal Facility for the west side of Fort Hood. The alliance worked with Coryell County and Copperas Cove with both contributing to the local cost share in requesting and completing the feasibility study. The study was completed in December 2018 with results presented to the III Corps Commanding General and Fort Hood Garrison Commander. Future efforts will continue to further development of the multi-modal facility to benefit both Fort Hood and the Central Texas region.

The alliance conducted a study to develop a community-based strategy to support Fort Hood. The alliance funded and executed the project culminating in presentations to regional leaders that

PLEASE SEE **HOTDA, 58**

Construction expected to begin on Mounted Warrior Museum this year

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The National Mounted Warfare Foundation has raised nearly \$8.7 million toward a goal of \$10.9 million needed to build Phase I of a new, state-of-the-art museum near Fort Hood's main gate.

"Projected to open in 2021, Phase I of the Museum will be a 28,700 square foot structure including 13,000 square feet of interactive and immersive permanent exhibit galleries and over 7,000 square feet of temporary exhibit space," said Bob Crouch, vice president of the foundation. "We expect to construct Phases II through VII sequentially once Phase I is underway."

According to Crouch, Phase II will expand the permanent exhibit gallery space by 11,000 square feet. Phase III will be the construction of two 1,500 square foot multi-purpose confer-



COURTESY IMAGE

The planned Mounted Warrior Museum, seen in an artist's rendering, was redesigned from three stories to one in order to handle large exhibit pieces, such as tanks.

ence/classrooms, Phase IV will be the construction of the museum gift shop and foundation staff offices, Phase V will be the construction of staff offices for the museum curators, Phase VI will be an upgraded outdoor amphitheater and Phase VII will be an additional pair of multi-functional conference/classrooms.

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 Museum is projected to be 265,000 visitors in the first year, including 195,000 visitors from outside the local area,

The museum expects to bring in a minimum of \$5 million annually to the local economy, said retired Lt. Gen. Paul "Butch" Funk, the foundation's president and CEO.

According to Crouch, the top expenses in the \$26 million capital campaign goal include

\$10.9 million for Phase I of the building, \$10.4 million for exhibits and an additional \$5 million to complete Phases II through VII.

"Our immediate focus is on closing out the funding for Phase I so that we can begin construction," Crouch said. "Anecdotally, we know that visible, physical progress on a project like this builds excitement in the community and encourages people to support and contribute to the effort."

"Our architect, Huckabee Inc., will complete the 100 percent design of

the museum by the end of March," he added. "Our goal is to raise the remaining \$2.2 million for Phase I between now and then. If we meet this goal, construction could begin as early as June."

Crouch said the foundation's annual operating budget is currently \$307,450. Most of that stems from \$227,200 in the annual salaries of the three full-time foundation employees and three development consultants. Rent, utilities and other bills make up the remainder of the budget, according to Crouch.

The museum project is still pending acceptance by the Secretary of the Army, who is the only one who can approve the Center of 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.

HOTDA

FROM PAGE 57

highlighted the significant impacts of Fort Hood on the Central Texas region and recommended approaches to pursue in support of Fort Hood growth and future missions. The alliance will seek to implement those recommendations moving forward in 2019 and beyond in cooperation with Fort Hood and regional cities and counties.

The alliance also contributed to a population growth study of Central Texas sponsored by

the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce. The study's goal is to identify the factors driving the significant population growth of the Central Texas area over the last 17 years and determine if and how it will continue to grow. When completed, the results will inform regional development and planning to better accommodate any future growth.

The alliance continued engagements to bring new missions to Fort Hood throughout the year while providing information on Fort Hood and the region. In 2018, the Army activated a new unit, the 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade, at Fort Hood.

LEADERS

FROM PAGE 56

2ND ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Col. Jeremy S. Wilson replaced Col. Steven J. Adams as commander of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in June.

3RD AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS GROUP

The major U.S. Air Force command on Fort Hood also changed hands, with Air Force Col. Charles M. Drouillard taking the reins from Air Force Col. Aaron L. Ullman. The 3rd Air Support Operations Group provides III Corps units with tactical air control party operators, airmen who provide Army units with air support, and also provided weather reports for all Fort Hood units.

COPPERAS COVE



The U.S. Highway 190 bypass is seen heading away from Copperas Cove in this photo looking to the west. Despite fears by some residents that the bypass would divert traffic from the downtown area, the city has continued to grow and flourish economically. The old highway, now called Business Highway 190, is being redesigned, as approved by the city council.

HERALD/FILE

Copperas Cove only expanding

BY MATT PAYNE

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

With an estimated population of 34,787 residents, Copperas Cove continues to experience growth in housing, retail and industrial business.

Homes continue to be built, the Five Hills Retail Center is filling up on the city's east side, and many projects are underway to boost the city's overall quality of life.

The Business Highway 190 corridor, currently seven lanes of traffic — three in each direction with a center turn lane — will be redesigned, as approved by the Copperas Cove City Council.

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.

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 finishing 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 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.

For more than a year, Ryan Haverlah is acting as interim city manager and keeping all plans on track as Cove continues to move forward. The city council has several new faces with new ideas for how the city built for family living can press forward.

Cove police, fire strive to ensure city safety

BY MATT PAYNE

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Copperas Cove Police Department, led by the Police Chief Eddie Wilson, strives to provide residents with a safe and secure community.

Several services comprise the department. They include the Criminal Investigation Section; the Organized Crime Unit; an Administrative Sergeant who is responsible for Community Relations and Public Information; the Communications Section; an Evidence Custodian; and the Records Section. The Animal Control Department is also included in the department.

Improvements made to the department in the past year include equipment upgrades, such as improving department cameras and other technology. Police is one of the most highly prioritized sections of the Copperas Cove budget.

The Copperas Cove Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Michael Neujahr, provides both fire and EMS services to Copperas Cove residents and to almost 90 square miles of southern Coryell County, averaging 350 emergency responses monthly.

Among improvement projects on the



MATT PAYNE | HERALD

Firefighter Dalton Kuehn shows the features of a Copperas Cove fire engine to children June 26 at the Copperas Cove Public Library.

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 years.

Both the police and fire departments routinely hold community outreach events, including facility open houses and meet-and-greets.

Cove economic development corp. in holding pattern

BY MATT PAYNE

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation continues to press forward even as the organization is going through some leadership changes.

The resignation of Cove's longtime city manager more than a year ago has delayed the hiring of a new EDC director, but interim director Diane Drussell and company have ensured the EDC continues to work with other Copperas Cove city departments.

The EDC can provide incentives for businesses interested in locating to or

expanding in Copperas Cove.

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation was formed in 1990 by a vote of the residents. 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. That includes offering small businesses with resources that include educational programs, tip programs and spotlighting new businesses as they begin to fill the city.

The Cove EDC works with businesses interested in locating or expanding to Copperas Cove.

"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."

Your drive through Cove will soon look different

BY MATT PAYNE

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The main path through the City of Copperas Cove will look drastically different as the community strives to improve its roads, properties and facilities.

In the City Council meeting Nov. 20, interim City Manager Ryan Haverlah provided an update on the timeline of renovations to be made on U.S. Business Highway 190.

Following criticism from both residents and councilmen, the renovation will include no lane reductions, but at the cost of a narrower sidewalk.

The revisions cost the city an additional \$72,000 on top of the \$518,975 that has already been spent toward design and planning.

An original plan proposed a lane reduction from Constitution Drive to Avenue D, from three lanes to two lanes in each direction.

In December, the city planned on finishing the “30 percent phase” of the design, which was submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation for a comprehensive review of the schematic design.

TxDOT held a public hearing Feb. 12 at the Civic Center.

In June 2019, the city anticipates completion of the “60 percent design” completion.

Then, between March and May 2020, bid letting for the construction of the project will occur.

Among other projects, 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



HERALD | FILE

Morning commuters travel along U.S. Business 190 on Aug. 3 in Copperas Cove.

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 No. 3 is on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2020. Officials said it will provide space for additional Fire Department 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 No. 4 will be built to give the Cove Fire Department a means to handle the ever-increasing number of calls in the growing community. 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, Ogle-tree 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.

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Gatesville continues to expand

BY MATT PAYNE
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The county seat of Coryell County, Gatesville, is also known as the Spur Capital of Texas. 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 continues its growth in a variety of areas.

City leaders have recently begun the process of developing a new Comprehensive Plan for the city.

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 Health-



HERALD | FILE

A Texas flag is seen popping in the wind June 29 on Main Street in Gatesville.

care System, based in Gatesville, will eventually continue its multimillion-dollar 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.

The project that started in November 2016 was set to feature new operating rooms, a new 25-bed hospital portion, a 16-bed rehab center and new administrative offices.

Currently, the project is on hold, according to the hospital, but will be picked up in the future, officials say.

Within the past year, the healthcare system added pulmonary rehabilitation and cardiac rehabilitation programs, hired a full-time cardiologist and added a psychiatrist nurse practitioner to its team.

The Gatesville Independent School District has been brainstorming new ideas and formulating action plans to address each specific strategy area.

Formed in the 1880s, GISD now has nearly 3,000 students.

"The mission of Gatesville ISD, a portal to limitless possibilities, is to empower our students to be life-ready knowledge seekers and problem-solvers by instilling leadership, innovation, integrity, critical thinking, and service through challenging and engaging learning experiences facilitated by passionate teachers and supported by caring parents and community members," says the district in its mission statement.

Some new visitor-related businesses have come to Gatesville. 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 Street. 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.

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HERALD | FILE

Main street is seen June 29, connecting the west and east portions of Gatesville.

Kempner offers community with rural setting

BY MATT PAYNE

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Kempner, despite being a relatively small community with a population of around 1,100, 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, was built in 2018 on U.S. Highway 190 across from The Brick Oven, Kempner's German restaurant.

The Brick Oven continues to draw sizeable crowds with its German cuisine and handmade pizza. The Taqueria Express, a small Mexican restaurant with a drive-thru, also draws its share of customers with its food and friendly staff.

The latest business addition is a new automobile repair shop, Fans Automotive, at 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. Melba Vandever, David Richardson, Clifton Morse, Bob Crane and Don Casper.

The city recently doubled the number of employees in its police department.

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.

Lampasas focuses on workforce training, capital projects

BY ARTIE PHILLIPS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Strengthening the local workforce has continued to be a priority for the city of Lampasas, with help from the school district, county and colleges.

The Lampasas Independent School District's Career and Technical Education program continues to expand each year. The is proposing a new facility for agriculture and animal science, along with new programs including cosmetology, construction and welding. The program currently offers over 700 various certifications.

The Lampasas County Higher Education Center also gives residents the opportunity to pursue professional certifications without leaving Lampasas. The center offers a variety of career-training programs in allied health fields, which are approved and regulated by the Texas Workforce Commission, and in the fall of 2017 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.

In partnership with Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas, the center continues to offer courses in several academic fields, which range from microbiology, physics and anatomy to fine art appreciation.

The city has been growing residentially and commercially, as well. Becky Sims, with the City of Lampasas planning department, reported that 43 residential permits were issued in Lampasas last year. In addition, the 67-home Stone Valley subdivision will break ground this year, as well as possibly two more subdivisions totaling 50 homes.

In terms of commercial growth, several local businesses are planning expansions including Silver Creek Assisted Living, AWS Contractors, Oil States Industries, Boone RV Park, M&M Butcher Block and West Oaks Independent Living Community, to name a few. Oil States will be hosting a grand opening for their new facility in March. Quality Inn & Suites completed a major renovation in the Fall of 2018 including new furniture, bedding, televisions,

technology and carpeting.

Multiple businesses came to Lampasas in 2018, including The Rolling Pin Bakery and Café, Domino's Pizza, LS Plumbing, Moonlight Pool and Spa, Memo's Mexican Restaurant, Bella Italia Restaurant, Stoneledge Winery & Vineyard, BAM Vapor, Cruise Holidays & Vacations and Mills County State Bank.

Remodeling is expected to be completed by summer 2019 on the Keystone Hotel, a local landmark built between 1856 and 1870, purchased by an Austin man with a lifelong interest in historic buildings.

The Lampasas Economic Development Corporation continued improvements to technology infrastructure in 2018, working alongside Foresite Group, Inc. Foresite Group will present recommendations and overall assessment to City officials and EDC board members in spring 2019. In addition to the technology project, City Council continues to focus on a capital improvement plan that includes a new Water/Wastewater facility and renovation of the 1931 Roy L. Thomas building (Old City Hall), with plans to host the first city council meeting in early spring.



Local athletes achieve success

BY CLAY WHITTINGTON

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

It was another year full of high school athletic achievements in the area, and it did not take long for the impressive performances to begin.

Ellison dominated on the basketball court during January with both the Eagles and Lady Eagles finishing atop the District 8-6A standings.

Led by senior standout Casey Armour, who was named all-district most valuable player, the Eagles won a share of the district championship en route to reaching the regional quarterfinals, where they were eliminated by No. 10 Allen 65-54.

The Lady Eagles experienced similar success behind district MVP Cielo McClain, capturing the district championship and finishing the regular season ranked 16th in the state.

Lampasas' boys basketball team made history under first-year head coach Aaron Nuckles, who guided the Badgers to a playoff victory, giving the program consecutive seasons with a postseason win for the first time since 2001.

Lampasas senior Kyle Sims and Armour were each placed on their respective all-region teams.

Ellison's accomplishments extended into track season, where the Eagles won the district championship and sent three athletes to the state meet. Aubrey Kelly, a senior, produced the top showing at state, placing fourth in the discus with a throw measuring 182 feet, 6 inches.

Gatesville pole vaulter Jordan Morse, Lampasas pole vaulter Ryan Fesler, Lampasas 300-meter hurdler Cameron Everts, Salado's girls 1,600 relay team, Lampasas' boys 1,600 relay team, Harker Heights' boys 1,600 relay team, Belton discus thrower Kaylee Hausam, Killeen triple jumper Devonte Cochran, Ellison shot putter Antares Gillespie and El-



ANDY ZAVOINA | HERALD

Ellison's Casey Armour shoots in a crowd of San Angelo Central defenders during a District 8-6A game at Ellison.

lison 110 hurdler Sullivan Sanders also advanced to the state meet.

Along with all its early success, Ellison suffered a significant loss as head football coach Trent Gregory retired after five years with the program. During the span, the Eagles went from being on a 30-game losing streak to snapping a decade-long playoff absence. Todd Wright took over the vacant position.

A few months later, Copperas Cove longtime head football coach and athletic director Jack Welch surprisingly retired after 24 years with the program, ushering a new era under Jack Alvarez, who inherited the program after winning a state championship in 2014 at Ennis. The Bulldawgs reached the playoffs finished fourth in district and reached the playoffs in 2018.

The area was also well represented at the state wrestling meet in Cypress, where five local products — Everts, a Lampasas sophomore, Ellison freshman Ayanna Bess, Killeen's Zharia Hopkins and Shoemaker teammates Dhaikiyah Geter and Chris Williams — competed. Everts and Hopkins each emerged with bronze medals.

On the soccer pitch, Shoemaker qualified for the playoffs for the first time behind a pair of all-district superlative winners in Vance Brown (offensive player of the year) and Everett Estell (co-newcomer of the year). Additionally, Grey Wolves head coach Greg Jordan was named coach of the year.

Salado swept District 25-4A with the

PLEASE SEE **ATHLETES, 65**

UIL realignment changes schedules, opponents

BY CLAY WHITTINGTON
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The high school athletic landscape shifted in 2018.

After spending the previous two years as part of District 8-6A, area Class 6A schools Killeen, Ellison, Shoemaker, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and Belton were relocated into District 12-6A as part of the University Interscholastic League's biennial realignment process.

But the shift in districts and the accompanying move from Region I to Region II was only part of the shake-up.

Despite losing San Angelo Central, the district grew.

Along with the sextet of area schools, Waco Midway remained with the group, while Temple and Waco were added, creating a unusually large nine-team district full of new and old rivals.

Temple and Waco were opponents with the Killeen-area schools for years prior to enrollment numbers separating the teams into different classifications before to the 2014 season.

Following years as smaller Class 5A teams, however, Temple and Waco were elevated, reigniting memories of confrontations from years past.

The reunion creates issues, though.

In football, with every team needing to play each other once, the eight-game schedule limited programs to just two nondistrict games — contests typically used to prepare teams for district play.

In other sports, the change was even more dramatic.

All district teams play each other twice in most sports, including volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer, which further limits teams' nondistrict schedules. In fact, the very first game of the 2019 season for District 12-6A baseball and softball teams was also the district opener, forcing teams to be in midseason form long before normal.

Regardless, coaches, players and fans must adjust.

The UIL will not have another realignment until 2020.

Schools are reclassified every two school years based on enrollments before

being placed in districts constructed in part to make geographic sense.

Class 6A schools have an enrollment of 2,190 students and above.

Waco is the smallest Class 6A school in the state with an enrollment of 2,195, while Temple has an enrollment of 2,269, matching Copperas Cove's total. Ellison's enrollment of 2,979 is the largest in Killeen ISD with Harker Heights (2,787), Killeen (2,646) and Shoemaker (2,576) following.

Belton is the district's largest school with 3,366 students, and Midway has 2,448.

Based on enrollments, Class 6A schools are split into two separate divisions for football playoffs after district standings are determined with the two largest qualifying schools playing in Division I and the remaining teams going into the Division II bracket.

With the change in district, area schools will play against opponents from District 11-6A — Longview, Mesquite, Mesquite Horn, North Mesquite, Rockwall, Rockwall-Heath and Tyler Lee — in the first round of the playoffs.

ATHLETES

FROM PAGE 64

Eagles and Lady Eagles each earning a district championship behind all-district most valuable players Costas Loullis and Hannah Reavis, respectively.

Eagles goalkeeper Trey Sheppard and Lampasas defender Jonathan Guthridge landed on the all-state first team.

Belton freshman Dallas Hankamer and Copperas Cove's Elle Fox won the individual district golf championships, while the Tigers earned the team title, and the Lady Bulldawgs placed second.

Gatesville won the boys and girls district golf titles behind first-place finishers Evan Washburn and Kaylan Summers, and the boys team's season ended at state, where the Hornets placed 10th.

For the girls, Gatesville also finished 10th at state, while Salado placed sixth and Lampasas freshman LeeAnn Parker ended in a three-way tie for 21st individually.

Salado also produced on the baseball field, reaching the regional final before having its 29-6-2 season ended by Jasper. Eagles seniors Jacob Wilk and Drew Dobbins split the award as all-district most valuable player, and Wilk landed on the all-state first team.

Copperas Cove and Belton each qualified for the playoffs in baseball and softball, while Gatesville, Salado and Lampasas each reached the postseason in softball, but none of the teams advanced beyond the second round.

Belton's Avery Drake was named 8-6A All-District Most Valuable Player in softball.

Following the summer break, Copperas Cove returned to the volleyball court and delivered a 41-4 record, reaching the second round of the playoffs. Ellison, Belton, Gatesville and Salado also made the playoffs, but the Lady Bulldawgs were the only team to produce a victory.

Salado sophomore Jaci McGregor won her district championship and placed second at regionals en route to a fifth-place showing at the state cross

country meet. Lampasas' Taylor Moore, Gatesville's Tasha Thoms and Katrina Thoms and Salado's Hunter Haas and Logan Rickey also raced at state.

Lampasas stunned people on the football field, going 6-4 and finishing second in district behind undefeated Liberty Hill before reaching the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2011.

Belton and Copperas Cove were the only other area teams to make the playoffs.



Killeen Parks and Rec offers classes, trails, swimming, sports

BY FELISA CÁRDENAS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

The Killeen Parks and Recreation Department continues to provide modern, family-friendly facilities.

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 2019.

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.

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 Lake and Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

The trail at Lions Club Park opened in 2011 and loops around a recreation section that includes a playground and outdoor basketball courts. The trail is 1.5 miles long and is at 1600 E. Stan Schluter Loop.

Killeen spokeswoman Hilary 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 said the city is working on extending the road in order to continue to connect parks to people.

"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 (using) 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.



HERALD | FILE

Youngsters play in the water at the Family Aquatic Center at Lions Club Park in Killeen on opening day last summer.

The City of Killeen rededicated the Blackburn Log House in August as the landmark was preserved to honor the city's history.

The Texas Historical Commission granted the John Blackburn Log house a Texas Historic Marker in 1985 as part of the Texas Sesquicentennial.

The log house, at the Killeen Community Center, sees thousands of visitors each year.

Room and pavilion rental applications are available at killeentexas.gov.

The community center also offers classes such as 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 and was repainted and pools were resurfaced prior

to the start of the 2018 summer swim season. 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 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.

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.

Learn more about Killeen Parks and Recreation at killeentexas.gov or call 254-501-6390, 254-501-8889 or 254-286-2005.

UMHB football back on top

BY FELISA CÁRDENAS

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Following a perfect 2017 season that was tainted by an NCAA Division III championship loss against Mount Union 12-0, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor earned its second national championship in program history with a 24-16 victory over the Purple Raiders in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl XLVI in December.

En route to reaching their third consecutive Stagg Bowl, the Crusaders finished 15-0 on the year to tie the school and American Southwest Conference record for victories in a season.

The Crusaders placed four players on the Associated Press Little All-American Division III Teams, and each was a First Team selection.

Markeith Miller ran for 1,864 yards and 30 touchdowns on the season, according to Cru Athletics. He also added two touchdown receptions. Colton Hall helped lead the way for the offense that averaged 238.7 rushing yards and 53.4 points per game on the season. He was also the team's highest-grading offensive lineman.

Jalen Martin is a senior from Cedar Ridge High School who recorded 66 total tackles and added four interceptions and 10 pass break-ups.

Jefferson Fritz, a sophomore more free safety from Kaufman High School, intercepted a school-record 12 passes, broke up seven more, posted 40 tackles and blocked

two kicks on the season.

Joey Longoria and Reggie Cole were both named to the AP All-America Second Team. Longoria had 67 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and led the Cru with eight sacks. Cole intercepted two passes, broke up seven and had 35 total tackles.

Miller, Fritz and return specialist Aaron Sims all earned spots on the D3football.com All-America First Team. Sims returned a school-record five punts for touchdowns and averaged 29.1 yards per return. He also had four touchdown receptions.

Longoria and Cole were both voted D3football.com Second Team All-America. Hall was a Third Team All-America selection. Martin and offensive guard Lane Smith claimed Honorable Mention All-America honors. Smith joined Hall on the offensive front wall for the Cru and led the team in knock-down blocks on the season.

The Crusaders held a free celebration with fans on Jan. 31 and 1,000 visitors received commemorative posters that could be autographed by athletes and coaches of the team.

Mary Hardin-Baylor has plenty to celebrate as 61 of 661 student-athletes from 13 member and two affiliate institutions have been recognized by the American Southwest Conference on its 2018 Fall All-Academic honor roll.

The teams were announced by the ASC office and include the sports of men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's soccer and volleyball.

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Killeen ISD bond brings big changes

BY KATELYN ROBERTSON

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

In May, residents voted to approve two bond projects totaling \$426 million that would allow the Killeen Independent School District to take on several construction and renovation projects.

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, peaked at 45,091, and the preliminary projected enrollment for next school year is 45,583.

Two of KISD's four traditional high schools are 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 school construction bond election was the first 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.

In the initial bond plan, a total of \$426 million was approved between two propositions.



KISD

An aerial view of Maude Moore Wood Elementary School shows construction is underway. The project is set to be completed in June and scheduled to open for the 2019-2020 school year.

Proposition A allotted \$235 million for safety and accessibility projects and the construction of two new campuses, High School No. 6 and Elementary No. 36. The safety updates are underway district-wide, and the \$19 million budgeted for these projects has not changed.

Over the summer, new security vestibules were installed at Harker Heights and Shoemaker high schools. These vestibules provide a physical barrier that requires visitors to enter the front office before gaining access to the rest of the campus.

This measure is in addition to the new electronic buzzer systems that were installed at all four high school campuses over the summer.

These systems allow staff members to see a visitor and press a button allowing entrance into the office. Here, the staff conducts a background screening and can then grant entrance into the rest of

the school. This system helps ensure that the school is able to control who has access to the building, district officials say.

Similar locking features are being installed at all 48 of the district's regular campuses. Improvements are about 90 percent complete at the 32 elementary schools.

"I'm pleased with the progress being made on the improvements in protecting students and staff from potential intruders with security vestibules, automatic locking doors and buzzer systems," Superintendent John Craft said.

Exterior doors of KISD campuses are unlocked by scanning an employee badge, and additional badge readers and timers are being installed at all high school campuses so that all doors can remain locked during times when students are inside the school.

PLEASE SEE **KISD, 74**



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Copperas Cove ISD expands for growth

BY KATELYN ROBERTSON
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Copperas Cove ISD is showing signs of moderate growth, according to Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Support Services Rick Kirkpatrick.

Currently, the district has an enrollment of 8,243 students, compared to 8,132 students at this time last year. The district peaked this year at 8,290 students as compared to a peak of 8,184 students last year. The district has averaged about 75 new students every year for the past three years, but the new housing developments in Copperas Cove are beginning to be reflected in the district enrollment numbers, Kirkpatrick said.

In order to accommodate the growth on the north side of the city, CCISD is renovating Fairview Elementary School so it can absorb some of the new students moving into the area. The Fairview renovation is expected to be completed in time to open for the 2019-

2020 school year.

In August, CCISD opened a new transportation facility on 16 acres it has on Summers Road in the north part of the city. The new facility provides room to expand as student enrollment increases.

The 109 employees of the transportation department will now work in the new building, which will allow for more repair bays to fix the school buses and a separate covered area to wash them.

The building's ground was broken in November 2017.

Joe Burns, CCISD Superintendent, said the facility will enhance the department's ability to work efficiently.

"This means a great deal to us because we finally have a facility that has the space and has the structure to be able to do what our transportation does really well, and frees them up to focus on doing their job, which is transporting kids each and every day to and from school," Burns said.

In July, CCISD opened the District

Service & Training Center, which houses the central administration staff and serves as a one-stop shop for central office related needs or questions. The facility offers training rooms that are used for employee professional development.

In 2018, CCISD engineered teacher planning time to provide better opportunities for teachers to discuss the goals for student learning, as well as effective ways to help students meet those goals, according to Dr. Patricia Remissong, deputy superintendent of instructional services.

"The focus of these planning sessions is on providing students with strategies and guidance, so that students can manage more complex and rigorous academic tasks," Remissong said. "Extended time for lesson planning allows more opportunities for teachers to collaborate with one another about their craft."

CCISD teachers are also focused on the ways in which they can assess student

PLEASE SEE **CCISD, 73**



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Communities In Schools serves Bell, Coryell counties

BY MICHAEL DEWEES
CIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas is a local, nonprofit organization currently serving Bell and Coryell counties.

Since the organization's founding in 1992, CIS has grown to serve 45 campuses in five school districts: Killeen, Copperas Cove, Temple, Belton and Salado.

CIS is one of 28 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 under-privileged 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 2017-18 school year, CIS served more than 5,239 students struggling in academics. On average 93 percent of students improved in academics, 96 percent improved in behavior, 99 percent stayed in school and 96 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.

A&M University-Central Texas nears 10-year anniversary

BY KAREN CLOS

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

Founded in 2009, Texas A&M University-Central Texas approaches its 10-year anniversary this May, marking a number of recent milestones that continue to define and shape the innovative new university, 10th of 11 regional universities of the renowned Texas A&M University System.

Pursuing an ambitious Long Range Master Plan, envisioning a fully built-out campus, A&M Central Texas continues to make progress, adding facilities, new degrees and graduating hundreds of students every semester, including a record number of graduates — 824.

Heritage Hall, the third of A&M Central Texas buildings, opened in mid-fall 2018, featuring state-of-the-art biology and chemistry labs, performance labs for exercise physiology and human performance, ROTC programs, the college of arts and sciences, criminal justice forensic library archives and notable collections including University Archives and Central Texas Historical Archives.

DEGREES

Offering 27 undergraduate degrees and 17 graduate degree through the College of Arts and Science, the College of Business Administration, and the College of Education, A&M Central Texas has awarded 6,423 degrees in its first nine years.

Adding new and re-named degrees in 2018, A&M Central Texas now includes four new undergraduate degrees: the B.S., in Exercise Physiology and Human Performance, the B.Mus., in Music, and the B.A.A.S, in Criminal Justice and Information Technology.

Three new graduate degrees were also added in 2018: the M.A., in teaching, the M.Ed. in higher education leadership, and the M.A. in English. A fourth new graduate program, the M.S. in One Planet Leadership, (formerly named management and leadership), became the first graduate program in the U.S. to be affiliated with the One Planet Education Networks, combining business, leadership, and sustainability principles.



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Texas A&M University-Central Texas faculty, staff and some students arrive at Heritage Hall on Jan. 25 for a dedication ceremony to officially open the newest building on the TAMU-CT campus.

Upon approval from the regional accreditor, A&M Central Texas anticipates offering additional degrees in fall 2019: an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering technology and graduate degree in homeland security.

In fall, 2019, A&M Central Texas joins forces with The Texas A&M University System on the RELLIS campus in Bryan, offering its undergraduate applied arts and science degree in business management on America's newest center for transformative research and education.

RELLIS offers adults in the region access to 26 program offerings with Blinn College District and several of the Texas A&M Regional Universities.

Recognizing the importance of flexible degree programs, A&M Central Texas celebrated the results of The U. S. News & World Report 2019 Best Online Programs that ranked its graduate degree in criminal justice #22 and the (former) graduate degree in management and leadership #60. The online MBA ranked 101st, moving up almost ten points in the rankings in 2018.

A&M Central Texas also boasts an exceptional high achieving ROTC program, often yielding more commissioned officers than the University of Texas and ranking into highly competitive Top 10%

and Top 20% of Distinguished Military Graduates.

PARTNERSHIPS & RESEARCH

A&M Central Texas offers support for those interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education and educational administration, partnering with A&M Commerce to offer the First Choice Program.

A&M Central Texas partners with a variety of educational, governmental, military, law enforcement, and health care entities throughout the region

PLEASE SEE **A&M-CT, 73**

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CTC continues history of affordable education

BY BRUCE VASBINDER
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Since opening its doors to more than 2,000 students in 1967, Central Texas College has evolved into a unique institution focusing on an affordable, accessible education.

The school's diverse student population includes nearly 7,500 students per semester at its Killeen and Fort Hood campuses, more than 36,000 students at sites across the globe and an additional 4,000 students taking classes online.

More than 20 percent of local high school come to CTC. School officials estimate 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.

CTC prepares students for jobs or to transfer to four-year universities, with more than 100 associate degrees and certificates of completion available in many diverse fields.

Programs of study include aviation science, business administration, communications, computer science, comput-

er-aided drafting and design, electronics technology, industrial technology, interdisciplinary studies, language, mathematics, nursing and paramedic, science and computer and information technology.

NEW PROGRAMS

Logistics and Global Supply Chain Management program opened in the fall 2018 semester and leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Logistics and Global Supply Chain Management (60 credit hours) or a Global Supply Chain Specialist Level I Certificate of Completion (19 credit hours).

Courses in the program prepare students for careers in transportation, warehousing, distribution, inventory control, purchasing and international logistics.

The Logistics program was also recently approved for Veterans Administration benefits.

Cyberdefense-Information Assurance degree and certificate program and the Cybersecurity certificate of completion: The degree program is a 60-credit hour

curriculum leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree and the certificate program involves 23 credit hours. The Cybersecurity certificate grants 17 credit hours over two semesters.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

CTC offers more than 450 distance education (online) courses to accommodate the needs of students who may have job, family and other commitments that deter them from attending traditional lecture courses.

Students may complete 30 degree and 34 certificate programs solely online. The most recently added online program is engineering. CTC was recently ranked as the 13th best online college among all schools in Texas and the eighth best community college in the country on the Top Colleges List 2018-19 assessed by OnlineColleges.com.

MILITARY COMMITMENT

CTC's commitment to serving veterans and military families across the

PLEASE SEE **CTC, 74**

UMHB prepares its students for global society

BY JAMES STAFFORD
UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR

The mission of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is to prepare students for leadership, service, and faith-informed discernment in a global society. The university enjoyed another banner year, marked by new facilities and exciting new programs.

In August, the first group of students moved into Lord Hall. The university's newest residence hall has beds for 214 freshmen students.

The facility includes a large central lobby, study rooms on the second and third floors, computer kiosks throughout the building, and two laundry rooms on each floor. Another feature unique to this hall is a large common area on the third floor that is equipped with a kitchen space.

Another exciting change to the

UMHB campus has been the creation of the Mayborn College of Health Sciences.

Named in honor of Sue Mayborn, the college includes a variety of health-related degree programs, organized into three schools: the Scott & White School of Nursing, the School of Exercise and Sport Science, and School of Health Professions.

The School of Health Professionals includes three graduate degree programs, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program, and the Master of Arts in Counseling program.

The university has also begun accepting applications for its new Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program.

This program will equip students with the skills to help individuals of all ages engage in everyday activities.

Through the use of meaningful activities, occupational therapists address motor, cognitive, sensory, psychosocial, and other challenges while capitalizing on individual strengths to promote participation in daily activities at home and in the community.

This new program will operate out of a 40,000-square-foot health sciences learning space in the beautifully renovated Hardy Hall, with 15,000 square feet specifically designed for occupational therapy education.

A fourth graduate program will be added to the School of Health Professionals when a new Master of Science in Physician Assistant degree program is launched in spring 2021. Applications for the program will begin being accepted next year.

James Stafford is director of Marketing and Public Relations for the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

CCISD

FROM PAGE 69

progress throughout the school year. Ongoing assessments of student progress provide teachers with the information they need to respond to individual student needs. This continuous cycle of assessment also helps students monitor their own growth, set higher goals for

their own achievement and celebrate their success, district officials said.

Reading and writing continue to be a central focus of the district's efforts to support student achievement and their success later in life. CCISD teachers work to isolate essential reading and writing skills, as well as the strategies students can rely on to build those skills. Significant investment in classroom libraries this year aims to promote students' independent reading habits

and provide students with ready access to high-quality literature and informational text.

"As always, CCISD maintains a focus on preparing students for life after high school graduation," Remisong said. "Our successful partnership with Central Texas College in Killeen is ongoing. We continue to value the opportunity provided to students to engage in a true college course experience and earn college credit."

A&M-CT

FROM PAGE 71

including Fort Hood, regional Chambers of Com-

merce, Central Texas College, Temple College, Killeen ISD, and businesses and community service agencies, many of which benefit from strong programmatic and service learning ties to our degree programs.

In the last five years, the A&M Central Texas faculty and staff have generated more than \$3.4 million in research grants and contracts to support educational programs and community development for the Central Texas region. With over \$5.1 million in research grants and contracts in proposal stages, the amount of research is continuing to grow with specific research that includes, but is not limited to: 1. PTSD for active duty and veterans, 2. Solar and Sustainable future energy models, 3. Cybersecurity and Homeland defense, 4. Healthcare including those with Cognitive Impairments, and 5. Invertebrate research indigenous to the area.

According to Dr. Russ Porter, vice president for Research and Economic Development, "This is an exciting time for the university, with new research labs, new federal level research with partnerships that include Texas A&M, University of Texas at Austin, and Colorado State University, and an enhanced economic development research agenda that includes our planning for a university research park with the Killeen Chamber of Commerce and the 14 Forward Foundation."

STUDENT POPULATION

Demographically, A&M Central Texas students are the most broadly diverse students of all regional universities



GABE WOLF | HERALD

John Sharp, chancellor for the Texas A&M University system, speaks to a packed atrium of Heritage Hall on Jan. 25.

in the Texas A&M University System: 59.1 percent are "non-white," 65 percent are female and 35 percent are male. More importantly, A&M Central Texas students graduate in roughly the same percentages as their ethnic representation, proving that they are successfully retained after transfer, realizing their goal of degree attainment.

Virtually 100 percent of A&M Central Texas students transfer in after attending either a community college or university, and 2 of every 3 of A&M Central Texas undergraduate students are the first person in their immediate family to earn a degree. 40 percent are on active duty, veterans, or members of military families.

The most important factor may be the University's reputation for relatively small class sizes that encourage a more personalized approach and more engagement. "Our faculty are remarkable," said Dr. Marc Nigliazzo, A&M Central Texas president. "They are passionate about their subject areas and

equally passionate about their students' learning."

A&M Central Texas' unique status — 1 of 3 upper-level (or "transfer level") universities in the U.S. — creates natural partnerships with the region's community colleges, keeping the cost of degree attainment low compared to other Texas public universities.

Also, with admissions standards that balance scholarly ability as well as the promise of access to undergraduate and graduate degrees, A&M Central Texas students are eligible for admission when they have 30 college-level hours (typically, about 10 classes) and a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Finally, A&M Central Texas lives up to its mission of access by keeping its tuition and fees within reach financially.

According to College for All Texans, A&M Central Texas had the second lowest average tuition and fees in 2018.

Karen Clos, Ed.D., is executive director of Communications & Advancement at Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

Campuses are equipped with an intercom system that allows communication between individual classrooms, as well as throughout the entire campus. These will be replaced at campuses that have experienced gaps in their intercom coverage or have aging systems.

Outside of the buildings, approximately 10 miles of perimeter fencing will be installed throughout the district.

The newest high school is in the design phase, and the estimated cost is now \$147 million, which is \$24 million under the original budget of \$171 million. Elementary School No. 36 is now set to open in the fall of 2021, and the estimated cost for that project has been lowered to \$40 million from the originally planned \$45 million.

Proposition B allotted \$191 million for the consolidation of East Ward and West Ward, a consolidation of Pershing Park, Sugar Loaf and part of Bellaire elemen-

tary schools, and renovations on both Clifton Park Elementary and Killeen High School.

The East Ward and West Ward consolidation project had an initial budget of \$44 million for a renovation of the current East Ward campus. This was adjusted to \$48 million in September to allow for a brand new building to be constructed on the East Ward site.

The bond originally budgeted \$21 million for a renovation of Clifton Park Elementary as part of a consolidation with part of the Bellaire Elementary student population. However, this plan was adjusted in a unanimous board vote Oct. 9 to provide for a new campus to be constructed next to the site of Nolan Middle School. This plan would allow for almost the entirety of the elementary schools' populations to remain together, rather than splitting up Bellaire students. This raised the cost of this project from \$21 million to \$40 million.

Students at Nolan already had been slated to be moved out and rezoned because an additional middle school was in the strategic facilities plan for Harker

Heights. It's not being built with bond funds.

The plan for the Pershing Park consolidation was also adjusted to account for the Bellaire population going elsewhere. The original budget for this consolidation went from \$51 million to \$42 million.

Construction updates and a current timeline of projects can be found on the district's website at <https://killeenisd-bond.org/bond-progress.html>.

In a separate project, construction of Maude Moore Wood Elementary School, formerly Elementary School No. 35, is well underway, according to Terry Abbott, Chief Communications Officer for Killeen Independent School District.

"Killeen ISD's newly named Maude Moore Wood Elementary School is coming along fast," Abbott said.

The school is in the White Rock subdivision, between Blue Nile Drive and Obsidian Drive, Morganite Lane and Pyrite Drive.

The project is set for completion in June and scheduled to open for the 2019-20 school year, Abbott said.

CTC

FROM PAGE 72

globe has been acknowledged for the ninth consecutive year as the school earned a ranking among the top Military Times Best for Vets colleges. CTC was ranked 10th among the best online and non-traditional schools for military veterans on the Best for Vets: College 2019 list.

Last year, CTC began a military articulation paramedic program to award credit to military or Department of Defense first responders for their experience, knowledge and military trauma courses.

Soldiers can articulate from their current EMT certification to a paramedic in two semesters, plus internship, instead of the traditional four semesters.

CTC, the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance program and the USO Pathfinder Program at Fort Hood joined with the Manufacturing Institute's Heroes MAKE America to offer transitioning soldiers industry-specific certifications endorsed by the National Association

of Manufacturers, the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council and Army Career Tracker.

It offers a variety of industry-specific skills and certifications to complete the transition from the military to help soldiers secure rewarding careers with competitive wages in the manufacturing industry.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The commitment to the community stretched beyond Fort Hood to neighboring universities as CTC signed articulation agreements with both Texas A&M University-Central Texas and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB). The sealed partnerships will ease the transition from a CTC associate degree to a bachelor's degree program through either A&M-Central Texas or UMHB.

The articulation signings are one more opportunity CTC provides its students to transition seamlessly to a four-year university and guarantee transferability of credit hours.

While continuing to maintain some of the lowest tuition rates in Texas, CTC has initiated other cost reductions for students.

CTC eliminated many fees associated with registering for classes and most recently, the school has begun offering reduced and free textbooks.

In addition to its textbook lending program, CTC has adopted Open Education Resources (OER) to provide a no-cost access to teaching, learning and research materials in any medium — digital or otherwise — which can result in significant savings each semester.

In January, CTC implemented OER for many English, public speaking, fine arts and physics classes and is exploring other OER opportunities for more courses and programs.

For those looking for career training opportunities and classes not requiring a degree program, CTC offers many options through its Continuing Education department.

Career training programs include massage therapy, medical assistant, veterinary assistant, certified nurse aide, clinical medical assistant, pharmacy technician and professional truck driving. The department also offers a variety of exercise, personal enrichment, cooking, arts and crafts, dance, language, photography, computer, business and other classes.



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