

Harker Heights Herald



CHAMPIONS
Lady Knights end season as district champions

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Vol. 11, No. 7

harkerheightsherald.com

KISD board approves district rezoning plan for middle schools

BY HUNTER KING
HARKER HEIGHTS HERALD

Anticipating the opening of a new middle school in Harker Heights later this year, the Killeen school board this week approved a rezoning plan for the district.

The board's action, by a 6-0 vote, means that around 2,000 middle school students within the Killeen Independent School District could be attending a different school in the 2020/2021 school year.

The new Nolan Middle School off Warriors Path in Harker Heights is set to open its doors later this year. With



Craft

Middle School and some of the current Manor attendance zone students would attend Eastern Hills Middle School. The other middle schools that would be affected by the rezoning are Liberty Hill, Live Oak Ridge, Palo Alto, Union Grove and the current Nolan Middle School on Jasper Drive in Killeen.

The rezoning of the middle

schools will eliminate the need for portable buildings at middle schools throughout the district, according to district Superintendent John Craft. There are currently 54 portables at middle schools in the district.

The new middle school off Warriors Path, which is costing \$54 million from the district's strategic facilities fund, will have the district's second Middle School Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Program. Currently all of the STEM students attend Roy J. Smith Middle School.

Students currently attending a middle school that will be affected by the rezoning

change have the opportunity to be grandfathered in and finish middle school at that campus, according to Craft. The district will not be able to provide transportation to those students and they will have to have their own transportation to school.

The current Nolan Middle School on Jasper Drive will close following the current school year. Behind the current Nolan Middle School site, a new elementary school is being built to consolidate Clifton Park and Bellaire elementary schools as part of the 2018 bond. The new elementary school is going to

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOLS, 2**



PHOTOS BY LISA DAVIDSON | HERALD

Eight-year-old Isabell Ramirez from Killeen experienced with paint during the unveiling of the new Tap Tap Bus community celebration at Tap Tap Art School in Harker Heights Saturday morning.

Life is a canvas

Tap Tap Art School's new bus brings art back on the road

BY LISA DAVIDSON
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Community members of all ages were able to enjoy a fun-filled and creative morning at Tap Tap Art school in Harker Heights on Saturday, while taking a glimpse at the school's new bus.

Just like the original Tap Tap school bus, the new one was designed by known air brush artist Von Otto of Waco, who was also present during the event to give live airbrush demonstrations.

"It is a full class room, fully equipped, and can hold 22 students," said Amelia Rabrook,

director and owner of Tap Tap Art School.

The mobile art studio can be booked for birthday parties and is used as a classroom to bring creative projects directly to students of local schools and day care centers.

Killeen resident Katrina Williams visited the free community event with her two daughters, Kinsley, 5, and Kennedy, 9.

"It's really diverse and it's really good for the kids," she said about the many activities that were offered on campus adjacent Purser Family Park

PLEASE SEE **ART BUS, 2**



12-year-old Israel Ramirez works on a piece of art during the unveiling of the new Tap Tap Bus community celebration at Tap Tap Art School in Harker Heights on Saturday morning.

Friday
February 14, 2020

KNIGHT CLUB



Tickets nearly sell out for 20th annual Knight Club performance.

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HONOREE



City Council recognizes teen who received Sophomore of the Year Award.

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HEALTHY SMILE



Children learn dental hygiene skills at special story time event.

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LOVE BITES



Seniors create Valentine Love Bugs for children.

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YOUR NEWS TEAM



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Candidates file for upcoming mayoral, city council elections

BY BOB MASSEY
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

With one day remaining in the candidate filing period, four people have filed for spots on the May 2 election ballot for the city of Harker Heights.

Two candidates have filed for the mayor's seat. They are incumbent Spencer Smith, 68, and Vitalis Dubininkas, 26. Smith is a financial advisor. Dubininkas

is an adjunct professor.

Running for the Place 4 seat on the council will be Jeffrey Keith Harris, 62, and Lynda A. Nash, 52.

Harris is retired active-duty military and also retired from the Department of Homeland Security.

Nash is retired.

John Reider is vacating the Place 4 seat because of term limits dictated by the city charter.

Both the mayor's seat and council seat carry with them three-year terms through 2023.

The deadline to file as a candidate is Friday, Feb. 14, at 5 p.m.

The municipal election will be conducted from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. May 2, in the Recreation Center at 307 Miller's Crossing.

Early voting begins Monday, April 20 and

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WE SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS

