

Kids' Advocacy Place continues to fight for local children

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Bert Owens says she's invented a new book niche

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Final performances of new comedy, drama this weekend

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Belew addresses claims, as calls for resignation circulate

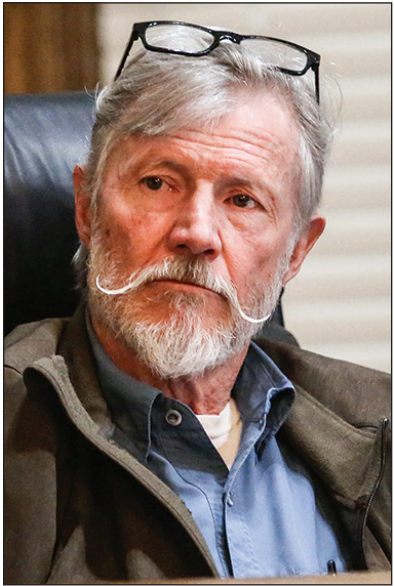


Photo by Tammy Prout

HARLEY BELEW, Precinct 1 Kerr County Commissioner, addressed allegations against him Monday morning.

By ROSA LAVENDER
Staff Writer

Precinct 1 Commissioner Harley Belew is facing serious allegations related to a felony conviction when he was 17 years old and living in Tarrant County, which could cost him his job.

According to documents from the Tarrant County District Clerk's office Belew, who lived in Haltom City, a suburb of Fort Worth, was involved in a burglary of two local department stores along with two other teenagers during the winter of 1973.

At the time burglary of a business was a second-degree felony under Texas law. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* story on the two burglaries states that Texas Rangers investigated the burglaries along with other law enforcement agencies and approximately \$7,000 worth of merchandise

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MOWA celebrates rich, 40-year history



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

DARRELL BEAUCHAMP, executive director for the Museum of Western Art, greets guests during the 40th anniversary celebration.

By ROSA LAVENDER
Staff Writer

One of Kerrville's premier tourist attractions and home to one of the greatest collections of Western artwork in the world celebrated its 40th anniversary last weekend.

Saturday evening's Founders and Benefactors Dinner at the Museum of Western Art ended a day-long celebration that included a mayor's proclamation, ribbon-cutting by the Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce, chuck-wagon breakfast and several other events to celebrate four decades of op-

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Celebrating 50 years

Mini Mart founders honored, fundraiser and events planned

By VICKIE AUDETTE
Special to the Journal

From its inception until now, the people of Mini Mart have served the people of the Hill Country by knowing and caring for their daily needs.

In 1973, Junior Fritz and wife, Ann opened their first Mini Mart store in Kerrville.

The idea of owning a chain of stores had its beginnings when Junior and Ann owned Fritz Grocery and Market, in Center Point, Texas. While working side by side, the young couple was living behind the store and raising their children, Sylvia and David.

Junior and Ann's engaging customer service and the store's family environment led to a popular shopping destination in downtown Center Point. As Fritz Grocery prospered, they began to explore expansion opportuni-

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THE FIRST LOCATION for Mini Mart was opened in 1973 in Kerrville, a move that grew to become a fixture in the entire Hill Country and a legacy for the Fritz family.

'Save-A-Life Jacket Program'

Peterson campaign aims to prevent child drownings

By TAMMY PROUT
Publisher

The collective heart of the Peterson Health Emergency Department staff extends far beyond caring for those sick or injured arriving daily in the Peterson Regional Medical Center Emergency Room, and the recent launch of the team's "Save-A-Life Jacket Program" is only one example of their commitment to protect this community.

Dr. Josephine Livingston, Trauma Medical director and assistant medical director for the emergency department, said the Save-A-Life Jacket Program, launched earlier this week is geared to helping prevent child drownings as the summer months approach.

"Nationally, drowning is the Number 1 cause of fatalities for victims ages 1-4," Livingston said. "Our goal is to distribute these jackets to 200 students, ages 3-4 at the (KISD) Early Childhood Center for our first year.



Photo by Tammy Prout

THE 'SAVE-A-LIFE JACKET PROGRAM,' a collaboration between Peterson Health, Gibson's Discount Center and Kerrville ISD has officially launched. Pictured are Dr. Josephine Livingston, Lead APP Billy Aguilar, and Gibson's Manager Doug Hetzler, preparing the display to begin collecting donations.

Our goal is to prevent drownings in our community."

The cost of each life jacket is \$17.50, Livingston said, and commu-

nity donations are now being accepted to help reach their goal of providing each ECC student with a life jacket for the summer.

"Gibson's has offered to help us. They've ordered all the life jackets.

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Vets no longer 'Missing in America'

American Legion post assists project honoring deceased

By ROSA LAVENDER
Staff Writer

The Kerrville American Legion Post 208 was host to the Missing in America Project during their stopover in Kerrville last Thursday night.

The local post provided a place for the 11 urns of remains of veterans (nine men and two women) destined for interment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio on Friday afternoon. They also provided a local veteran as an honor guard to stay overnight with the urns at the post headquarters.

"This is the second time we have

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Photo by John Lavender

MIGUEL MIRANDA, U.S. Army retired, from San Antonio, left, carries one of the eleven urns of remains into the American Legion Hall on Thursday evening while Juan Tarango, U.S. Army retired, also from San Antonio, right, salutes the remains of the veteran that he has just placed on the honor table at the hall. Miranda and Tarango are motorcycle riding "buddies" and participate in the Missing in America Project each year.

Annual memorial service helps heal



Photo by Tammy Prout

SARA MCKEON holds a photo of her mother, Lucille Duff, who she honored and remembered at last week's Peterson Health Hospice event.

By TAMMY PROUT
Publisher

Tears were shed, words of hope were shared and loved ones embraced as nearly 100 guests gathered last week to remember and honor the lives of friends and family members who have passed away during the annual Peterson Health Hospice Spring Memorial service held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Rev. Bert Baetz spoke of remembrance and faith during his opening prayer.

"Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who died in

See HOSPICE, Page 11

County mulls Eagle Ridge, voting integrity issues at meeting

By ROSA LAVENDER
Staff Writer

Monday's meeting of the Kerr County Commissioners' Court saw residents of Eagle Ridge back before the court asking that a final plat not be approved for the Twin Springs Development and an up-

date from Pct. 2 Commissioner Rich Paces on his efforts to change the voting system in Kerr County to use only paper ballots. Other item on the agenda were the approval of a grant submission with



Paces

MHDD that will fund a mental health professional to be housed in the county jail to work with inmates with mental health issues, and a presentation by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority asking Kerr County to partner with the GBRA in protecting three varieties of mussels in the Guadalupe watershed and river.

But the meeting began with a statement by Pct. 1 Commissioner Harley Belew related to his status on the court. See that story on this page.

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Courtesy Photo

JUNIOR AND ANN FRITZ, founders of Mini Mart, were staples in the community, always giving back and supporting youth. Their legacy continues with their children, David and Sylvia, who carry on the tradition of community support and family work environment.



Courtesy Photo

DAVID AND SYLVIA FRITZ now carry on the legacy and traditions set forth by their parents, Junior and Ann Fritz, founders of the Mini Mart company.



Courtesy Photo

RAZOR DOBBS, Sylvia Fritz' husband, is following in Junior Fritz' footsteps, serving as a firefighter with the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department. It's Junior's service to the department that prompted David and Sylvia to launch a fundraising campaign for all of the volunteer fire departments that reside in the communities in which Mini Mart operates.

Fritz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ties.

The beginning of Mini Mart

A pivotal moment came when Junior Fritz heard about a relatively new concept - the "convenience" store - and the couple pursued this venture and Fritz Grocery and Market would transform into a chain of Mini Mart convenience stores.

Junior and Ann are both gone now, but their legacy lives on.

In 2013, Sylvia Fritz Dobbs and David Fritz followed in their family's footsteps and took over ownership of Hill Country Mini Mart, LP.

The business partners lead through strategic planning, and a shared vision supported by their spouses, Razor Dobbs and Stacy Fritz. The next generation of Fritz siblings, Gage and Lucy, have also begun to be involved in the family business.

Today, 18 Mini Mart stores are located in nearby towns situated throughout the Hill Country in Bandera, Center Point, Comfort, Fred-

ericksburg, Ingram, and Kerrville.

A big part of Mini Marts 50-Year success is hospitality which is rooted in the Mini Mart culture.

It extends from each of its 200 team members - store managers, administrative and maintenance staff, and leaders - to its customers who make Mini Mart stores part of their daily routine.

Sylvia and David credit Junior and Ann for teaching them the ins and outs of running a successful business through truly caring for people. "Our parents shared their gift of hospitality. It's why today we are celebrating 50 years in business."

In 2018, the Kerrville Chamber of Commerce recognized Sylvia Fritz Dobbs and David Fritz with the "Business Persons of the Year Award."

Giving back in gratitude to our Volunteer Fire Departments

The Fritz family invests in its Mini Mart customers and communities in all sorts of ways. As part of our 50th Anniversary they are sponsoring a donation program to help local volunteer fire departments. Founder Junior Fritz was a Center Point Fire

Department volunteer in the 1960s. "It's what neighbors do," said Sylvia. "We care and support one another."

Razor Dobbs, Sylvia's husband, a volunteer for Center Point Fire Department said, "Working shoulder to shoulder with my VFD brothers and sisters, is the most rewarding work I've ever been a part of."

"Our local volunteer fire fighters put themselves in harm's way whenever they answer a call."

The Fritz family invites everyone to join in our "Giving with Gratitude Campaign" to help raise much-needed support for the men and women of our volunteer fire departments (VFDs).

On your next trip to Mini Mart, look for our display of gallery photos featuring our local volunteer fire departments located inside the store and on the fuel pumps.

Ask a Mini Mart team member how you can make a donation in our stores.

Please visit mini-mart.com to learn more about Mini Mart's 50th Anniversary Celebration and our giveaways and special events.

Mini Mart 'Giving Back in Gratitude' to local volunteer fire departments with fundraising campaign

Join Mini Mart as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary by giving back in gratitude to our local volunteer fire departments.

Ask a Mini Mart team member how to make your donation.

Over 50 years the scope of fire fighting services has changed and greatly expanded. "Today the service of our VFDs goes beyond structure fires to include, wildland fires, high-water rescues, vertical rescues, car accidents, and assisting EMS/Medivacs," said Razor Dobbs, a volunteer with Center

Point Volunteer Fire Department.

"Community outreach is a big responsibility too, but every volunteer loves serving their community."

The goal is to raise much-needed donations to support the lifesaving work of our volunteer fire departments.

Keep in mind, 100 percent of all the money donated during the Mini Mart 50th Anniversary will go directly to support the volunteer fire departments in the communities they serve in Kerr, Bandera, Comfort, Gillespie and Kendall coun-

ties. Use the QR Code below to donate.



Hill Country COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WE ARE HIRING

The HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY JOURNAL, Kerrville's Hometown Newspaper, is currently seeking applicants to fill two positions:

STAFF WRITER:

A full-time position, the ideal candidate will spend a majority of his/her time covering all aspects of the community, including governmental meetings and features. This is a great opportunity to get to know the community in a unique way, doing everything from writing, reporting and taking photos and learning video.

Send a cover letter, resume, references, 3 articles and 2-3 photo examples in an email with "Reporter position" in the subject line to journal@ktc.com.

NEWSPAPER LAYOUT:

A part-time position, the chosen candidate will be responsible for laying out the newspaper weekly. Must be proficient in QuarkExpress and Photoshop. Training will be provided. The job will require 20 hours per week.

Send a cover letter, resume, references in an email with "Layout Position" in the subject line to journal@ktc.com.

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