

The Kerrville DAILY TIMES

\$1.50

COUNTY



BELEW

Belew unlawfully holds office, DA alleges *Counter filing claims there is lack of evidence of a felony conviction*

Sean Batura
Special to The Times

A local prosecutor has opened civil litigation against Precinct 1 Commissioner Harley Belew claiming the latter is ineligible to hold public office due to a felony conviction from the 1970s.

But Belew's attorney alleges the removal of an elected official requires a technical definition of "conviction" for which evidence hasn't been proffered.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BELEW
"Because Defendant has been convicted of a felony offense and

has not been pardoned or otherwise relieved from the resulting disabilities, Defendant is ineligible to hold the public office which he currently occupies," reads a petition filed Monday by the office of 198th District Attorney Stephen Harpold.

Harpold's office sent a letter to

Belew's attorney, Patrick O'Fiel, on May 2 requesting Belew's resignation. In the letter, Harpold writes that a Texas Rangers investigation determined that on Aug. 13, 1973, Belew was found guilty of burglary and sentenced

See **BELEW**, page 8A

CITY

Management agreement sets up new public arts program

Roger Mathews
roger.mathews@dailytimes.com

An agreement between the city of Kerrville and the Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau was approved by the city council Tuesday, allowing the bureau to develop and implement a Community Arts Program dedicated to bringing works of art to Kerrville.

"We are excited about the new opportunity," said Julie Davis, president of the Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We've been working on plans that will kind of get the ball rolling."

Funding from the city will be \$225,000 per year for the next three years. The funds will allow the new program to commission public art, such as statues, murals or other works, for the beautification of the city, Davis said.

Funding will be transferred no later than Oct. 31 for the first year. That will allow the program to begin collaborating with other art-centered organizations in town, including the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center, Playhouse 2000, the Kerrville Folk Festival, Hill Country Arts Foundation, Riverside Nature Center, Symphony of the Hills, the Kerrville Chalk Festival, Arcadia Live, the Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden and the Museum of Western Art. Davis said she hopes the program will become a clearinghouse for bringing more artwork to the city.

See **ARTS**, page 5A

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Town hall to update on human smuggling *Leitha: End of Title 42 to affect Kerr County*

Staff report
news@dailytimes.com

MOUNTAIN HOME — The Kerr County Sheriff's Office, Kerr County Precinct 4 Commissioner Don Harris and the Kerr County Sheriff's Foundation invite citizens to an update on human smuggling and its local impact. The free event is planned for 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, at the Mountain Home Volunteer Fire Department, 5475 Junction Highway in Mountain Home.

"This should be very educational for

LEITHA



See **TOWN HALL**, page 5A

50 years of convenience

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in Kerrville, Mini Mart will have celebrations all summer long, including giveaways at Mini Mart locations. Katie Mooney, left, shows off the different caps available to guests who visit during the celebration. Next to Mooney is Sylvia Fritz-Dobbs, owner, and employees Stacy Fritz and Paula Garcia.



Margo Brooks, left, and her husband, George Brooks, enjoy some memories while sitting in a 1973 Ford Mustang. The vehicle was at the Mini Mart at 1698 Junction Highway on May 3 as a part of the 50th anniversary celebration of Mini Mart in Kerrville. (Times photos by Roger Mathews/photo@dailytimes.com)

Family-owned Mini Mart celebrates its 18 stores across Kerr County

Roger Mathews
roger.mathews@dailytimes.com

Mini Mart Convenience Stores is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a campaign to raise money for area volunteer fire departments. Donations are accepted at all 18 area locations and on the company website, according to co-owner Sylvia Fritz-Dobbs. Local stores had celebrations last week.

Her husband, Razor Dobbs, volunteers with the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department, and Junior Fritz, the founder of Mini Mart, donated money over the years to local fire departments, keeping volunteer firefighters in the forefront of their concerns.

"Our local volunteers put themselves in harm's way whenever they answer a call," Dobbs said.

Throughout the summer fundraiser, the Mini Mart stores will feature photos of firefighters.

"Every store is a little bit different, you can see different things," Fritz-Dobbs said. "So maybe people can come around and look at

the stores, donate and look at the firefighters' photos."

Fritz-Dobbs would not say how much they hope to raise, but they want to be able to donate a sizable amount to each of the area departments, she said.

Although the official 50th anniversary will not take place until October, Mini Mart will celebrate all summer long with free giveaways, drawings and contests.

It all began with Junior Fritz, who grew up in his family's grocery store in Center Point. When his father died in 1960, he took over running the family store and then purchased it from his mother in 1966.

After he heard about a new concept in marketing called convenience stores, Junior Fritz and his wife, Anne, opened their first store in Kerrville in 1973. Over the next seven years, the chain grew to include eight stores, and by the time of Junior Fritz's death in 2013, there were 17 stores in total.

See **MINI MART**, page 3A

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Kerrvillian celebrates 100th birthday with drive-by party

Roger Mathews
roger.mathews@dailytimes.com

Tommy Weigle observed her 100th birthday Sunday, but the party was Monday at her home, where she is a shut-in because of her frail health. That didn't stop her from smiling about the party that was thrown for her by her son, David Weigle, and friends from her church.

Kerrville Mayor Judy

Eychner stopped by to read a proclamation in her honor, there was food and drinks for everyone, and a parade of 12 cars came by the house to honor Tommy Weigle on her special day.

Sitting on her front porch in a comfortable chair, Tommy Weigle waved at the passing parade of friends and well-wishers.

"I just can't believe this

See **BIRTHDAY**, page 5A



Tommy Weigle, left, receives a proclamation from the city of Kerrville from Mayor Judy Eychner on the occasion of her 100th birthday on Monday. (Times photo by Roger Mathews/photo@dailytimes.com)

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Weather

Mostly cloudy
High 87 Low 70

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6 71260 11112 8
Vol. 112 Issue 31

OBITUARIES | Thursday, May 11, 2023



Keith William Arnold
June 2, 1956 – April 26, 2023

Keith William Arnold, 66, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2023, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was the son of William and Donna Arnold, born on June 2, 1956, in York, Pennsylvania. He later moved with his family to Kerrville.

Keith was a hard-working family man with a heart of gold. He would make friends everywhere he would go and was loved by many, remembered by all. He was preceded

in death by his father, William; grandparents, Erwin and Lillian Hoover.

Keith is survived by his mother, Donna Arnold; daughters, Natasha Arnold Estrada, Celena Arnold and her life partner, Jeanette Padilla; sons, Billy Arnold, Terran Fields and Alex Fields; grandchildren, Jadon Arnold, Isaiah Arnold, Angel Garcia, Damion Estrada, Daniel Estrada, Abria Fields and Madax Fields; also, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 on the way. He will be greatly missed by many other family members and dear friends.

Celebration of life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the American Legion, Kerrville.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Wright's Funeral Parlor.

Wright's
Funeral Parlor
1913 Junction Highway
(830) 895-3323
www.wrightsfuneralparlor.net

Joe Mercer Rogers
Nov. 8, 1930 – April 23, 2023

Joe Mercer Rogers passed away of natural causes in North Little Rock, Arkansas on April 23, 2023. As he was known in Arkansas "Mr. Joe" or "Mr. Wonderful" (because that's what he told everyone his name was), was much loved. He will be very missed by his family, friends and caregivers — whom he always made smile.

Joe was born Nov. 8, 1930, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to Robert Winston and Dahlia Mercer Rogers. He graduated from College High School in 1948. On May 14, 1950, he married the love of his life, Ferol Lorayne Hostetter, in the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Bartlesville.

Joe worked with his parents at Rogers Electric Company for about 35 years, eventually purchasing the company from them. He and Ferol expanded Rogers Electric by adding a lighting showroom, Rogers Ltd., in 1979. In 1986, Rogers Electric and Rogers Ltd. were sold, making it

possible for them to move to the Hill Country of Texas, where they lived for the next 25 years. Ferol bought an unfinished furniture store and Joe finished the furniture they sold. He traveled around Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma representing the stain and paint products he used.

Ferol passed away unexpectedly in 2013, and Joe moved to Little Rock to be nearer to his children.

Survivors include daughter, Susie (Larry) Bellinski of Bella Vista, Arkansas; son, David M. (Jana) Rogers of Little Rock; grandchildren, Robert P. (Irena) Bellinski of Chicago, IL, and sons Roman and Luka; Stephen M. (Jennifer) Bellinski of Franklinville, New Jersey, and children Micah, Mae, Abram and Asa; Thomas M. (Shaleen) Rogers of Conway, Arkansas, and sons Hudson and Dawson; Evan W. Rogers, United States Navy; and Ashton E. Rogers of Arlington, Virginia.

Arrangements by Griffin-Culpepper Funeral Service of McGehee, Arkansas. Online guestbook may be signed at www.griffinculpepper.com.



Tom Underwood
June 4, 1943 – May 8, 2023

Tom Underwood, age 79, passed away on May 8, 2023, in Kerrville, TX. He was born in Brady, TX, on June 4, 1943.

He is survived by his

wife, Karen; and son, Todd.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 12, 2023, at Grimes Funeral Chapels and burial at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Kerrville, TX.

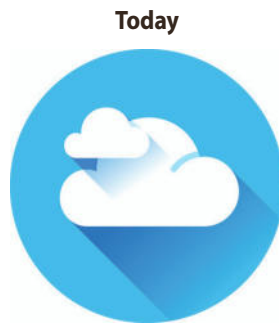
Condolences may be sent at www.grimesfuneralchapels.com. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Grimes Funeral Chapels
728 Jefferson St. • Kerrville, TX 78028
(830) 257-4544
www.grimesfuneralchapels.com

Weather

Five-day forecast

From the National Weather Service, www.srh.noaa.gov



Today
Mostly cloudy
S wind around 10 mph
High: 87 Low: 70

Friday
50% chc storms
High/Low: 86/65

Sunday
70% chc storms
High/Low: 76/65

Saturday
90% chc storms
High/Low: 73/63

Monday
50% chc storms
High/Low: 77/62

Precinct 1LIFTED
Precinct 2LIFTED
Precinct 3LIFTED
Precinct 4LIFTED

www.co.kerr.tx.us / or 792-HEAT
Yesterday's High/Low..... 86/70
Average High/Low..... 81/60
Yesterday's rainfall..... N/A
Rainfall year to May 8 2.99"
Average rainfall to May 8..... 8.37"

Sun and moon
Sunrise today 6:46 a.m.
Sunset today 8:20 p.m.
Moonrise 1:49 a.m.
Moonset 12:13 p.m.

New First Full Last
May 19 May 27 June 3 May 12

Water watch
Guadalupe River Flow (Daily reading) 33.3 cfs
Water Consumption May 9 City of Kerrville 3.9 million gallons

STAGE ONE Water Conservation:
Landscape and lawn watering with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems from 6-10 a.m. and 8 p.m.-midnight on Tuesdays and Saturdays for odd-numbered addresses, Wednesdays and Sundays for even-numbered addresses. Landscape watering with a hand-held hose is allowed anytime of day, every day, for all addresses. For information, visit www.kerrvilltex.gov.

Very wet weekend in our forecast

A very wet weather pattern is ahead across the Hill Country.

Flash flooding will be possible across the Hill Country late Friday night through Sunday.

The culprit will be a cold front and several disturbances moving across Texas from the southwest.

Storms may produce heavy rainfall throughout the weekend with temperatures below average for mid-May.

WARM AND HUMID

Thursday starts off with a few clouds and patchy fog. Skies become partly sunny in the afternoon with highs in the upper 80s to near 90 degrees.

South winds average 10 to 15 mph.

There is a slim chance we could see a shower or storm late in the day.

LOW CLOUDS AND MUGGY

Low clouds and patchy fog return overnight.

It will be very muggy with lows in the upper 60s to lower 70s.

Southeast winds average 10 to 15 mph throughout the night.



Cary Burgess
Dr. Doppler

THUNDERSTORMS INCREASING

Friday is when our local weather pattern changes. Scattered showers and thunderstorms pop up Friday afternoon and continue Friday night.

Rainfall may become locally heavy at times. A few of the storms could produce hail and damaging wind gusts.

Highs warm into the middle 80s.

Southeast winds average 10 to 20 mph.

FLASH FLOOD RISKS

Showers and thunderstorms are likely Saturday and Sunday.

Some of the rainfall may become heavy with flash flooding possible.

Lows drop into the 60s with highs holding in the 60s and 70s over the entire weekend.

Watch out for low water crossings which may flood quickly over the weekend.

If water is covering the roadways, turn around, don't drown.

Cary Burgess is a certified broadcast meteorologist. Find him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/drddopplerhillcountry. Email him at dryline34@yahoo.com.

Funeral services pending

Dr. William "Bill" Allen Jr.
Services pending

KERRVILLE — Services for Dr. William "Bill" Allen Jr., 79, of Kerrville, who died Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at his residence, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Thomas Gene Dawson
Services pending

HARPER — Services for Thomas Gene Dawson, 79, of Harper, who died Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at his residence, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Anna Henry
Services pending

JUNCTION — Services for Anna Henry, 76, of Junction, who died Monday, May 8, 2023, at her residence, are pending at Kimble Funeral Home, Junction.

Al Lutz

Services pending

SAN ANTONIO

— Services for Al Lutz, 65, of Kerrville, who died Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in a San Antonio hospital, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

Dayton William Scott
Services pending

OZONA — Services for Dayton William Scott, 38, of Ozona, who died Monday, April 10, 2023, are pending at Kimble Funeral Home, Junction.

Janette Elizabeth Oliver Stoupe
Services pending

KERRVILLE — Services for Janette Elizabeth Oliver Stoupe, 91, of Kerrville, who died Monday, May 8, 2023, at her residence, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.



Mini Mart

Continued from page 1A

Since Junior Fritz's death, Mini Mart has been run by his daughter and son, Sylvia Fritz-Dobbs and David Fritz, with help from other members of the Fritz family.

With 18 locations and 200 employees, the Mini Mart company is one of the larger employers in the area.

"We have some very loyal, devoted employees,"

Fritz-Dobbs said. "We understand that for some it may be a career, and for some others, it may just be passing through on the way to a career."

The brother-sister team manages the chain, with Fritz-Dobbs handling the financials and branding, while David Fritz manages the maintenance, buildings and equipment.

On May 3, most of the management and owners of Mini Mart were on hand to help celebrate the 50th anniversary at several locations around Kerrville. At

the 1698 Junction Highway location, there was a celebration going on, with prizes, giveaways and a 1973 red Ford Mustang to commemorate the 50 years they have served the Kerrville community. It was there for anyone who wanted to sit in and take photos.

There will be another round of celebrations at several of the stores in June and again in September, Fritz-Dobbs said.

"Our parents worked side by side and taught my brother and I how to

care for people. So really, this is fulfilling his dream. I'm fulfilling Junior Fritz's dream," Fritz-Dobbs said. "It's why today we are celebrating 50 years in business."

Razor Dobbs and Sylvia Fritz-Dobbs, center, explain the celebration to a customer at the Mini Mart on Junction Highway on May 3. The company is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. (Times photo by Roger Mathews/photo@dailytimes.com)

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