



# WEST KERR

Thursday  
December 17, 2020

# Current

Serving Ingram, Hunt, Mountain Home, the Divide

50¢

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## New Ingram mayor, chief take oaths

By Clint Schroeder  
West Kerr Current

Ingram City Council last Thursday made quick work of appointing a new mayor and interim police chief.

Mayor Brandon Rowan opened the meeting via telephone, and the first order of business was to unanimously appoint Kathy Rider, nominated by Council Member Claud Jordan, as Ingram's new mayor.

Rowan's earlier resignation then became official. Besides Jordan, Council Members David Britton, John St. Clair and Rocky Hawkins voted for the appointment.

"As the incoming mayor of Ingram, I fully understand the needs of the community that I was raised in and love," Rider said. "My first priority is to help the council create a balanced budget and be a good steward of the taxpaying citizens of Ingram."



West Kerr Current photos

**Ingram Mayor Kathy Rider, left, and Police Chief Carol Twiss take their oaths of office at last Thursday's City Council meeting.**

"My second priority is to lend my law enforcement experience to the city council and police department so that we can provide professional, quality policing," she said. "I'm asking for everyone to be patient with us as we transition from this difficult chapter."

Rider said she will have email established for citizens to ask questions and offer information for reviews.

"This will be done to lessen

**See Council, Page 12**



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

In a historic twist, following recent elections, two women are in charge at the City of Ingram — Kathy Rider, left, the newly appointed Ingram mayor, and

Carol Twiss, the new Ingram police chief. They are working hard to cobble their departments back into working order.

## Women step up to lead city

By Irene Van Winkle  
West Kerr Current

A recent meeting of Ingram City Council produced a likely historic and unusual result —placing two women in the high-profile positions of power in Ingram.

Just last Thursday, Dec. 10, Carol Twiss, former chief of investigations at Kerr County Sheriff's office, was appointed to fill the shoes of Ingram Police Department Chief Byron Griffin, who had resigned, and then to replace his entire staff of seven patrolmen and the

office clerk.

Ingram City Council appointed Kathy Rider to serve out the unexpired term of former Ingram mayor, Brandon Rowan.

Following Griffin's formal resignation, which was accepted by the council, Twiss went to work, scrambling over the weekend.

Those tasks included organizing files and resetting passwords in order to access equipment that had been left behind, and hiring all the replacements for the officers and clerks who had walked out on their jobs as well, as a step toward solidarity with their former chief.

Twiss said that she is not one to "paint outside the lines" and likes to stick to the letter of the law. Starting in 1991, Twiss retired from the Kerr County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 31, 2020. She said that she has begun the hiring process, hoping to find quickly the right candidates to replenish the IPD ranks.

"We are getting some help from KCSO and Rusty (Sheriff Hierholzer) has offered to do what they can until we put in our new staff," Twiss added.

While there has been talk of changing

**See Women, Page 7**

## Ingram VFD awards year-end honors

By Irene Van Winkle  
West Kerr Current

"What a year it's been," said Fire Chief Ray Lynch, citing specifically the Covid-19 virus that has plagued most of the world in 2020.

Except for a brief interruption (rescuing a cat out of a tree in Ingram Oaks), Ingram Volunteer Fire Department members enjoyed their tradi-

tional Christmas dinner and awards ceremony at the fire house last Saturday.

"We will do whatever we can, big or small, to help our community," said Assistant Chief Diana Baccus.

Lynch announced that one of the biggest highlights of the year was obtaining a new 505 fire truck.

**See IVFD, Page 10**



Photo by Irene Van Winkle

**Ingram VFD police chief Ray Lynch, left, presents the award for the Most Improved Firefighter to Eder Alvarez.**

## Rider briefs county on Ingram situation

By Irene Van Winkle  
West Kerr Current

Ingram was once more front and center in the spotlight, this time at commissioners court when newly-appointed Mayor Kathy Rider spoke to clarify the muddled situation and how events had evolved.

Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly said he wanted to hear more details about what was going on in Ingram, the resignations and changes in both city council and police department.

Rider, who was sworn in last Thursday, said that Carol Twiss, who was named chief of Ingram Police Department, had the experience for the position and was a strong leader. She said Twiss has the skills to rebuild the police department from the ground up — after all the employees

resigned.

"She is taking applications ... and is working with retiring Sheriff Rusty Hierholzer and his successor, Larry Leitha, who are being generous, covering our shortfalls," Rider said.

Rider said that there was a lot of talk about what had happened in Ingram.

"Ingram goes through cycles, and things blow up, so we just have to repair them and move forward," Rider said. "We are having growing pains. People don't like change, so there is infighting and hurt feelings. Implementing the wastewater system has been rough, and there has been resistance but it was a necessary change."

Rider added that she has worked at both the IPD and Ingram City Hall, and that her

**See County, Page 6**

## Rancher questions accuracy of ag land values for taxation

By Kari Short  
West Kerr Current

While the issue of property taxes has taken a backseat to Covid, masks and governmental edicts, landowners representing at least 80,000 acres in Kerr County are concerned the State of Texas is placing too high a value on agricultural land.

Led by local property owners Lary Priour and Thomas Wallace, who hosted meetings this summer to help property owners understand and protest property taxes, landowners remain resolved to improve agricultural taxation methodology.

Most of the participants felt the property valuations which increased from 40 to 537 percent this year were unwarranted and excessive.

Based on a 2019 Productivity Values Report from the Texas Comptroller's office, Kerr County's per acre productiv-

ity value was the second highest valuation compared with surrounding counties: Gillespie \$78, Kerr \$60, Kendall \$58, Kimball \$48 and Edwards \$43. However, the comptroller's office set targets to increase valuations this year between 2 percent and 55 percent for the five-county area. The targeted increase for Kerr was 28 percent.

Many of the property owners found some relief by protesting their taxes through the Kerr Central Appraisal District's Appraisal Review Board and some local taxing entities reduced their tax rates. Nevertheless, Priour and Wallace still question the accuracy of the data gathered and used by the Kerr Central Appraisal District to calculate agricultural valuations.

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' website: "The Texas Constitution and Tax Code provide that certain kinds of farm and ranch land be appraised based on the land's capacity to

produce agricultural products (productivity value) instead of at market value. In many cases, this appraisal technique substantially reduces taxation of land that qualifies for agricultural appraisal. . . ." Interestingly, and perhaps fortunately for today's landowners, farm and ranch land in Texas was taxed at market value until the 1960s.

The Texas Comptroller's office establishes the methodology for appraising agricultural values, and each county distributes questionnaires regarding land ag productivity to property owners. Details of this process can be read in the 70-page Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land produced by the Texas Comptroller's office. Data is then collated to set the per acre tax rate applied throughout the state and county for agricultural property.

According to Priour, after protests,

**See Values, Page 11**

## Ingram ISD board OKs exploring own police

By Clint Schroeder  
West Kerr Current

The Ingram school board, meeting in a special session last Wednesday, Dec. 9, authorized the superintendent to explore creating an Ingram ISD Police Department.

The move comes in the

wake of the resignations of all members of the Ingram Police Department last week.

"We have every confidence in the Kerr County Sheriff's Office and we fully believe that the city will rebuild and provide good service,"

**See Ingram ISD, Page 7**

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# Ingram police report

**Sunday, December 6**  
2:50 a.m. — A business alarm was activated in the 200 block of Old Ingram Loop. The business was secured and there was not anything suspicious observed.  
7:20 a.m. — A stabbing was reported at a residence in the 400 block of Velma St. The person who did the stabbing was located and arrested. Two people were taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.  
11:16 a.m. — A traffic accident occurred in the 100 block of Sleepy Mountain Dr.  
2:04 p.m. — A third party reported a physical disturbance in the 200 block of 3rd St. It turned out it was only a verbal argument and the people involved separated.

**Monday, December 7**  
12:25 p.m. — A report was made that a suspicious person was behind a store in the 3200 block of Junction Hwy. An officer made contact with the person and discovered it was an employee.  
6:11 p.m. — An officer assisted Child Protective Services with a welfare check for a juvenile in the 100 block of Harley Dr. The juvenile was fine and the guardian contacted CPS.  
9:32 p.m. — A welfare check was requested for a person in the 100 block of Bridge Rd. who was making suicidal comments. An officer searched the area but did not locate the person.  
**Tuesday, December 8**  
12:28 a.m. — A business alarm was activated in the 200 block of Old Ingram Loop. The business was secured and there was not anything suspicious observed.  
10:55 a.m. — A verbal disturbance between a man and woman was reported in the 400 block of Cedar Springs Dr. The man and woman were separated.  
7:11 p.m. — A resident in



the 200 block of Wedgewood Ln. reported that suspicious people knocked on their door asking for work at odd hours of the night. An officer located the people and they explained that they were trying to do yard work. The officer gave them a courtesy ride.  
7:15 p.m. — A person in the 200 block of 3rd St. reported hearing shots fired. The person heard a conversation at a neighbor's house and reported that a man had a gun. An officer searched the area and did not find anyone. The officer made contact with the neighbor who advised that no one had a gun and everything was OK.  
8:25 p.m. — A business alarm was activated in the 200 block of Old Ingram Loop. The business was secured and there was not anything suspicious observed. The business owner was contacted and a reported that the alarm was not working correctly and that they would contact the alarm company.

**Wednesday, December 9**  
10:35 a.m. — A woman in the 300 block of Hwy. 39 rolled over on her phone and dialed 911 by accident.

**Thursday, December 10**  
9:17 a.m. — A woman accidentally dialed 911 at her place of employment in the 200 block of Carolyn St.  
11:12 p.m. — A traffic accident occurred in the 100 block of Riverview Rd. A report was completed.

**Friday, December 11**  
8:50 a.m. — A disturbance regarding damage to a car was reported in the 3400 block of Junction Hwy.  
6:26 p.m. — A report was made that shots were fired in the 100 block of Point Theatre Rd. An officer searched the

## West Kerr Community Calendar

**Thursday December 17**  
**West Kerr County Chamber of Commerce** — December Mixer hosted by the Apothecary Shoppe. Snacks, drinks, door prizes, 50/50 drawing; member drawing and Member of the Month — must be present to win; \$5 entry fee; 1228 Bandera Hwy., Kerrville, 5:15 p.m.  
**Friday December 18**  
**Lady Warrior basketball** — vs. Harper, here, JV/V, 5/6:15  
**Warrior basketball** — Bye  
**Southern Sky Music Cafe** — Grand opening and ribbon cutting at the Hill Country Arts Foundation, 122 Point Theatre Rd., Ingram, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday December 19**  
**Lady Warrior basketball** — vs. Pearsall, there, JV/V, 11:30 a.m./1 p.m.  
**Whoville Drive-Thru on Old Ingram Loop** — Lighted Christmas drive, goodies, Old Ingram Loop, 6-9 pm.  
**Sunday December 20**  
**Living Nativity** — At PowerHour Christian Center with Wise

area and did not observe any indication that shots were fire.  
9:39 p.m. — A noise complaint was reported in the 3200 block of Junction Hwy. An officer spoke to the person responsible and they advised they would turn the music off.  
10:32 p.m. — A civil matter



## IVFD fire report

**INGRAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
[www.ingramvfd.com](http://www.ingramvfd.com)  
Ray Lynch, Chief  
Emergency: 9-1-1  
Business office: 367-5641  
Fax: 367-3073  
P.O. Box 271  
Ingram, TX 78025

**Alarms**  
12-13-20, 11:23 a.m., burn ban violation; 100 block of Shalako Dr..  
12-13-20, 11:38 p.m., fire alarm (canceled), 993 Hwy. 39.  
12-6-20, 2:48 p.m., brush fire, 444 Cade Loop.

Men, shepherds, animals, angel and manger scene. Free, ample parking; hot drinks and cookies provided. 610 Hwy. 39, across from Ingram Dam, Ingram, 6-8 p.m.  
**Monday December 21**  
**Lady Warrior basketball** — vs. Pettus, there, JV/V, 12/1:15 p.m.  
**Lady Warrior basketball** — vs. Three Rivers, there, JV/V, 5/6:15 p.m.

### West Kerr Weather

#### Rainfall

Source: Ingram observer for National Weather Service. Observations taken 8 a.m. to 8 a.m. at HCYR.

Tuesday, December 8 - Tuesday, December 15			
Tuesday 12/8	0.00 in.	Saturday 12/12	0.05 in.
Wednesday 12/9	0.00 in.	Sunday 12/13	Trace
Thursday 12/10	0.00 in.	Monday 12/14	0.00 in.
Friday 12/11	0.01 in.	Tuesday 12/15	0.00 in.

December 2020	0.07 in.	Total for 2014	19.12 in.
Total for 2020(to date)	27.16 in.	Total for 2013	24.75 in.
Total for 2019	27.66 in.	Total for 2012	22.73 in.
Total for 2018	37.40 in.	Total for 2011	11.63 in.
Total for 2017	24.85 in.	Total for 2010	27.24 in.
Total for 2016	36.04 in.	Avg. annual rainfall	31.65 in.
Total for 2015	37.27 in.		

#### Burn ban in effect in all precincts

Since conditions change frequently, for latest updates call Pct. 4 Commissioner Don Harris at 792-2215 or the sheriff's office at 896-1216. The Burn Ban Hotline is 315-BURN (2876).

### Functional health consultations available by appointment.

1228 Bandera Hwy.  
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## WEST KERR Current

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# HOMETOWN FOCUS



# Lady Warrior basketball reboot: 2020 edition

Entering the year, the 2020-21 Lady Warrior basketball team expected to return 13 players from the 2019-20 season with varsity experience ... but 2020 has been an “interesting” year for everyone, and the Lady Warriors are no exception.

As it turns out, the Lady Warrior basketball team actually only ended up returning three players from last year’s varsity and two more players from last year’s JV to this year’s roster.

The list of reasons that prevented many of the projected returners from playing basketball this year resembles a verse from the song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”: “A four-wheeler accident, three volleyball scholarships, two moved away, one is being home-schooled, and an early graduation.”

There are a lot of girls who we expected to be on this year’s team who aren’t for various reasons, but the young ladies who are playing are doing a great job! They come to practice every day ready to learn and improve, and they compete hard in games. They are a fun group to work with.

The burden of leadership and play-making on this year’s varsity team has fallen

### Warrior Family

Stephen Marbach

on the five returning players from last year’s varsity and JV teams.

The varsity returners from last season are: Lexie Neutze (senior), Macie Neutze (sophomore), and Jazmyn Vela (junior). Joining them in this year’s starting lineup are two players who played on both the JV and varsity teams last year, Alyssa Marquez (senior) and Mackenzie Duglosch (junior).

Lexie Neutze has taken on the role of being the vocal leader of the team. Lex is doing a great job of leading our team; she and Alyssa both do a great job of teaching our young players the right way to do things.

Macie Neutze and Jazmyn Vela are handling the majority of the ball-handling duties for the Lady Warriors, and Mackenzie Duglosch is a versatile forward who helps round out the starting five.

Macie, Jaz and Mackenzie are all experienced varsity players. They understand our system, and our team looks to them to make a lot of plays on both ends of the floor.

Renee Fisher and Emilee Ybarbo are two juniors who



Courtesy photos

Ingram Tom Moore High School Lady Warrior Basketball team.

were JV players last year, but are now contributing on the varsity level. Emilee is a guard, and Renee is a post. Renee and Emilee are both tough and scrappy players.

The rest of the varsity team is made up of freshmen: Kiley Goodman, Kasie Marbach, Madison McClintock, Allie Piper and Rylan Wilt.

These young ladies have had to fast-forward their development and their level of play because the speed of the game is very different for them now ... moving from playing middle school ball to playing on the varsity level is a massive jump! They have

done a good job of working hard and learning things quickly.

The Lady Warriors JV team is made up of Amy Alva, Xiclaily Alva, London Arredondo, Brooke Block, Hope McKenzie, Carmen Mohle, Sherlin Padilla, Lydia Prado, Chloe Rios, Madisen Thomason and Brooke Waldrip.

Coach Marbach is assisted by Donna Ragsdale, Shawn Heimann, Leah Foster and Abrianna Arredondo.

Stephen Marbach is the head coach of Lady Warrior basketball.

# Warrior basketball team resilient

This basketball season has been one for the ages. In a season marked with health and safety protocols, quarantines, game cancellations, stress and general angst, the resiliency of the Tom Moore Warrior men’s basketball team never ceases to amaze me.

Along with the four returning starters from a season ago, sophomores Saige Kneese, and Brandon Martinez and senior newcomers Andrew Burroughs, Walker Ragsdale and Vincent Chapa have willfully and successfully faced every challenge head on, regardless

### Warrior Family

Kenny Mulkey

of how unfair it may seem to them. And, they have done it all with a positive attitude that is far more contagious than Covid.

I would be remiss to not mention how hard the coaching staff has worked this year as well. Hank Stiteler, Brian Tollett and Kevin Landgrebe continually go above and beyond for the sake of their players and this program. I wouldn’t be able to do my

job without their help and expertise.

As we head into the holiday break, I encourage all of you to take a moment and focus not on all that is difficult this year, but on everything that makes your life great each day. I believe that you, like I, will be amazed at how much positive there is in your life every day.

Warmest regards this holiday season and Go Warriors!

Kenny Mulkey is the head coach of Warrior basketball.



Andrew Burroughs

# Death notices

**Michael Earl Adams**, 59, passed away on Dec. 6, 2020 in Kerrville, Texas. Funeral arrangements are by Wright’s Funeral Parlor.

**Camille S. Sarna**, 82, of Kerrville, Texas passed from this life on Dec. 6, 2020. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

**Robert “Bob” Brown**, 86, of Center Point, passed from this world and on to the next on Monday Dec. 7, 2020. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Charles Robert Schupp**, age 82, of Ingram, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 in a Kerrville care center. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Barrie Lester Ward**, 81 of Kerrville, found peace with the Lord Dec. 8, 2020 with his loving wife of 62 years by his side. Funeral arrangements are by Wright’s Funeral Parlor.

**Dr. George T. De Vaney**, 89 years old, of Kerrville, passed away Dec. 9, 2020. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Virginia Elizabeth Beasley**, 86, of Ingram, passed away Dec. 9, 2020 in Kerrville, surrounded by loved ones. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**William ‘Bill’ Ed Vasek**, founder of Vasek Pump Company, age 84, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at his residence in Hunt surrounded by his family. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Heidi Denise Welsh**, 37,

gained her heavenly wings on the evening of Dec. 9, 2020 in Kerrville, Texas. Funeral arrangements are by Wright’s Funeral Parlor.

**Kenneth Ray Murrell**, of Kerrville, passed away Dec. 10, 2020 at the age of 84 years. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

**Katy Lee Shuler**, age 71 of Kerrville, passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 in a local care center. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**John Conrad Martin**, 85, of Center Point, passed away on Dec. 10, 2020 in a local hospital. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Jo Anne Alexander**, age 76, of Kerrville, passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at her residence. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Richard C. Lehman**, 93, of Kerrville Texas passed from this life on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. Funeral arrangements are by Kerrville Funeral Home.

On Dec. 11, 2020, **Evelyn Courville Stutts**, 88, of Kerrville, was welcomed home into the arms of our loving Savior. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Irene Lucilla Bausch Stieler**, age 96, of Kerrville, passed away on Dec. 12, 2020, in her home on Goat Creek Road. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

**Martha Bigott**, age 90, of Kerrville, passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 in a local care center. Funeral arrangements are by Grimes Funeral Chapels.

# Obituary

## Debra Burleigh

On Nov. 28, 2020, Debra (Debsy) Nadine Nunley Burleigh passed away at her home in Ingram. Debra fought a fierce courageous battle with lupus for many years.

Debra was born in Port Arthur, Texas to Stanley and Patsy (Hughes) Nunley on Feb. 25, 1975. She was the youngest of three daughters and grew up in Bridge City, Texas. Debra graduated from Bridge City High School, where she was in the National Honor Society.

She worked at Wal-Mart while in high school and continued after graduation. She also sold advertising for the Penny Record, a local newspaper.

Debra attended Lamar University in Beaumont, where she graduated from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department Academy in 1999. She returned to Lamar in 2010, where she earned an associate degree in applied science, homeland security and crime scene technology. She was member of Phi Theta Kappa.

In 2011, Debra moved to Kerrville, where she worked security at Kerrville State Hospital. Later, she returned to Beaumont, where she worked for Brookdale Assisted Living.

In 2015, Debra returned to Ingram after her father was diagnosed with cancer to be near him. She enjoyed making jewelry and had a passion for photography. Debra never met a horse or dog she did not love. She never passed up an opportunity to go to the beach and



Debra Burleigh

Galveston was a special place to her. Debra spent many hours exploring and working on her family’s genealogy.

She was preceded in death by her father, Stanley.

Debra leaves behind her mother, Pat Nunley; sisters, Patricia Kovach and Cheryl Boltz; nephew, Lee Risinger; nieces, Jessica Boltz and Caitlan Boltz; aunts/uncles, Carol McCracken (Roy), David Hughes (Jean) and Debbie McCalley (Cliff); great nephew, Xion Immel; and special friend, Blain Goines.

The family will be planning a memorial service for the springtime. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Debra’s memory to the lupus foundation, St. Jude’s, or Wounded Warrior.

Condolences for the family may be made at [wrightsfuneralparlor.net](http://wrightsfuneralparlor.net).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Wright’s Funeral Parlor.

Walk To Bethlehem

A unique outdoor worship experience

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm.

The Hunt United Methodist Church

We welcome you to join us in a unique outdoor worship experience we are calling “Walk To Bethlehem”. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Christ in scripture and song. We will gather together on December 24th at 4:30 pm at the walking track outside of the Hunt United Methodist Church. Worship lead by Pastor Paul Harris and Praise Team and will include singing Christmas Carols, reading scriptures of Christmas Eve, Communion and a candle lighting as we walk a short distance together. There will be plenty of room to congregate at a safe distance while still enjoying fellowship with one another. Seating will be provided for those who need it. All are welcome!

120 Merritt Rd - Hunt Tx 78028 - (830) 238-4360

Upper Guadalupe River Authority

Weekly News

Healthy Springs Lead to Healthy Rivers

The Guadalupe River remains flowing even during times of drought thanks to countless springs that continually seep water into the river and its tributaries. Springs are found where water pressure has caused groundwater to move through cracks in the rock and start to flow over land. The amount of water coming out of the spring depends on groundwater levels, rainfall, and how the surrounding land is managed.

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# 38 years ago:

## From the pages of The Ingram News



Old Ingram Merchants are preparing for their Jolly Old Christmas Celebration this weekend which will feature open house on Saturday and Sunday, entertainment and refreshments and a wagon ride with Santa Claus. Here Pete Summers of Woodfire Gallery and Monroe Schlabach of Ole Ingram Antiques are shown putting up the 12-foot cedar Christmas tree.

### In The News

December 2, 1982

#### Council approves insurance coverage

Ingram City Council members moved to accept \$1 million in insurance coverage through the Texas Municipal League's group plan at an annual premium cost of \$1,093.

At their regular meeting Tuesday evening, council also discussed a potential franchise agreement with Joel Craig and Ingram Water Supply and the possibility of installing fire plugs at vari-

ous locations in the city.

The insurance, written by Employers of Texas, will provide general liability, auto liability, and personal injury and errors and omissions liability. Coverage will also extend to professional liability for public officials, the mayor, city council, and city marshal, and all city employees, including independent contractors.

Previously, the only city insurance coverage was for City Marshal Charlie Lee written through his membership in the National Sheriff's Association. That insurance

protection will be eliminated although Lee will retain his membership in the organization.

Mayor Donald Oehler reported that while the Texas Municipal League didn't have any sample water supply franchise agreements, an attorney there offered suggestions for what a basic agreement should contain. Oehler and the council agreed that liability insurance and maintenance and repair of the streets would be foremost among considerations in any agreement with the water supply company.

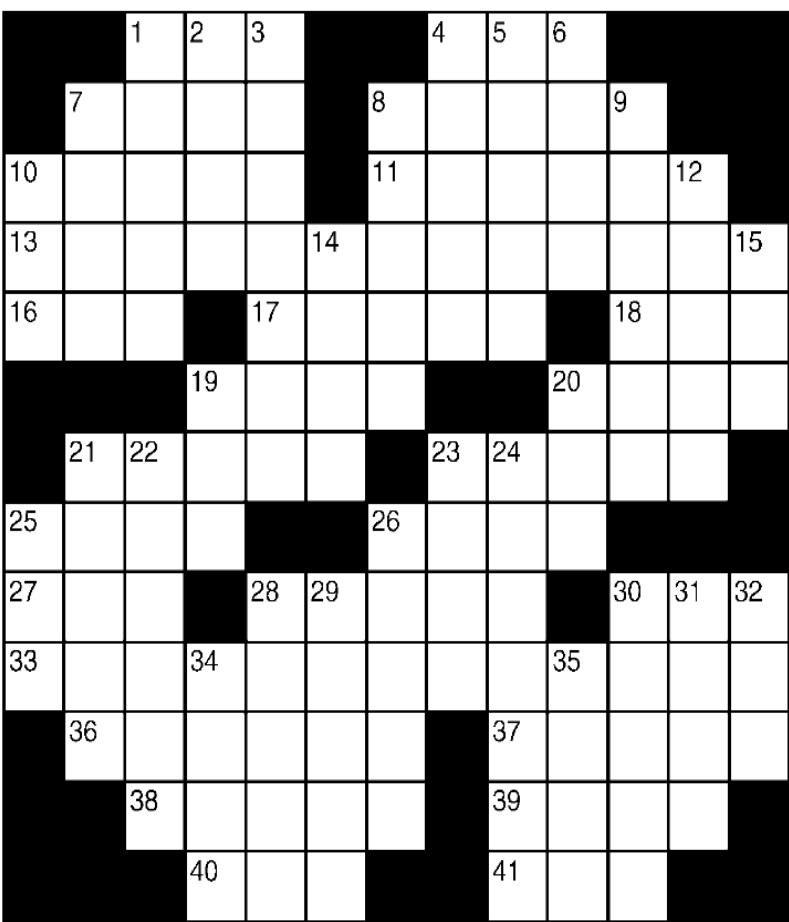
This feature is made possible by the gift of Ingram News back issues from the late Sylvia Schumacher.

## King Crossword

Solution on Page 11

### ACROSS

- 1 Vagrant  
4 Poke  
7 Femur or fibula  
8 Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"  
10 Cook by direct heat  
11 Silvery  
13 Smooth-coated pooch  
16 1/20 ton (Abbr.)  
17 Humdinger  
18 Moving truck  
19 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.  
20 Antitoxins  
21 Munchie  
23 Enthusiasts' emotions  
25 Roe provider  
26 Group of quail  
27 Debtor's letters  
28 Muslim maiden  
30 Thee  
33 High-backed chairs  
36 Earthling, in sci-fi  
37 Flavor  
38 Go over the books



- 39 Spud's buds  
40 Always, in verse  
41 Two, in Tijuana  
8 Conductor's wand  
9 Whine  
10 English channel?  
12 Signs of sorrow  
14 Kindle competitor  
15 Genetic stuff  
19 Young fellow  
20 Put into words  
21 Try for a two-pointer  
22 Queasiness  
23 Nil  
24 Ousted  
25 Bro or sis  
26 Beyond well-done  
28 Throng  
29 Where the elated walk  
30 Affirmatives  
31 Uneaten morsels  
32 Work with  
34 Verifiable  
35 Boxer's successful blow

### DOWN

- 1 Give a leg up  
2 One  
3 Tuneful  
4 Spanish wine town  
5 Mad  
6 Tavern offering  
7 Forehead

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## People with honor; make your holiday celebration easier

This past weekend I had the honor and privilege of providing the eulogy at my brother-in-law's memorial service. Tracy was only 58 years old, but he had been sick for many years.

At his service, I spoke about how he exemplified honor and integrity. As I reflect on those words today, I think about how many people I see around our community and more specifically around our Dietert Center.

From our volunteers, donors, board members, participants and staff, I could fill these pages with names that have those character traits built into them.

An article posted by Frank Sonnenberg, stated "that people with honor share twelve characteristics." A few of

### Dietert Center



Brenda Thompson

them are: "Value integrity – provide others with the confidence of knowing that your intentions and actions are always genuine.

"Be Loyal – when you live with honor, people know your behavior is reliable, your heart is in the right place, and your word is as good as gold.

"Make a Difference – be a positive force in people's lives. Make people feel special; bring out the best in them; help them without

expecting something in return.

"And finally, Live for a Cause Greater than Yourself – Find your life's purpose. It will inspire you, keep you grounded, and provide stability regardless of the turbulence in your life."

These words describe Tracy totally. As another family member stated, "there are just some people that make you feel the world would be a better place if it were filled with more people like them. I am blessed for all the time I was able to spend with him. His presence will always have a profound impact on the lens through which I view life." I wholeheartedly agree!

Thank you to all the honorable supporters of our Kerr County seniors. Your assistance – financial or otherwise – helps the Dietert Center provide much-needed services and support to our community, and for that we are so grateful.

Make your Christmas celebration a little easier. Order your fresh, **homemade quiche and banana muffins** by Friday, Dec. 18 online or give us a call at 792-4044. I can personally attest that the quiche is fabulous!

The banana muffins will be offered at ½ dozen for \$6 and a full dozen for \$10. The quiche includes bacon, potato, feta cheese, spinach, swiss cheese and spices and will be \$18 each.

You will be able to drive-

through to pick up your items on Wednesday, Dec. 23, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Your support of this fundraiser helps us with funds to assure that no senior goes hungry in Kerr County.

We will **continue to provide** our Meals on Wheels clients, Personal Alert Link units, Call Reassurance, Medical Lending program and our drive-through meals service during this time of uncertainty. All staff working in these program areas are remaining vigilant with health and safety protective measures.

Due to the uptick of Covid-19 cases in our community, the Dietert Center will be closed to the general public until further notice, *but*, staff are still here every day to assist those in need as best that we can within safety guidelines. As isolation during this time is not a positive attribute of life for our seniors, we will continue to strive to open back up as soon as possible.

If you, or a senior aged 60-plus you know of is in need of a hot meal, please give us a call at 896-8117 to review guidelines for the program. Our amazing volunteers help us deliver the meals, and best of all, they also offer a warm

smile and social interaction that so many people need right now.

Our **drive-thru Friendship Café** is open for lunch M-F 11:30-12:30. If you are 60 years or older, stop by to pick up a meal. If you have paperwork already completed or wish to complete it for us, the meal is by donation. If you don't have time to complete the paperwork, the meal is \$8.

The menu for the week is:

Wednesday – Lemon Pepper Baked Fish  
Thursday – Herb Baked Chicken  
Friday – Braised Swiss Patty  
Monday – Scalloped Ham & Potatoes  
Tuesday – Chicken Parmesan  
Wednesday – Yankee Pot Roast

Please call us at 792-4044 if you have any questions or need additional information.

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"I hate the idea of my wife would never let me take this many coffee breaks."

Answers on Page 11

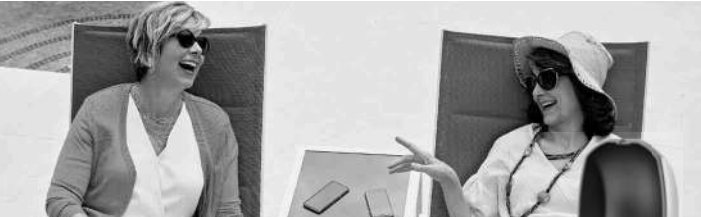
### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Entice  
**PARENT**
- Fable  
**GLEEND**
- Entering  
**DARWIN**
- Impede  
**HERDIN**

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# The Great Conjunction coming Dec. 21

As 2020 comes to a close, the solar system has decided to grace us with a cosmic Christmas miracle that hasn't been witnessed in nearly 800 years. **Jupiter and Saturn** will align to create a **Great Conjunction**, called the "Christmas Star."

To catch a glimpse of the phenomenon for yourself, make sure you have a clear view to the southwest about 45 minutes after sunset. The planets will be at their closest on **Dec. 21**, also the date of the winter solstice.

The "Christmas Star" will be visible from anywhere on Earth for about one hour after sunset in the northern hemisphere for the entire fourth week of December. If you're viewing with a telescope, you may also be able to see Jupiter and Saturn's largest moons orbiting them that week.

The next **Great Conjunction** this close won't happen until March 15, 2080.

Be sure to take a peek out your window later this month for a brilliant holiday treat.

The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius was Jupiter aligning with Mars, according to the Fifth Dimension. Perhaps this alliance of Jupiter and Saturn will bring "harmony and understanding, sympathy and trust abounding ... mystic, crystal revelation and the mind's true liberation." "Let the sun shine in."

**Sabrina and Calvin Luck** had their 12th annual Christmas Party at their home, **Hacienda Del Suerte**. While the revelers are usually numbered near 100, this year took a Covid hit with fewer



Photo by Denise Cartwright

**Joyce and Russell Friday win the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest at Joanne Marie and Me.**

## West Kerr Whispers

Denise Cartwright

attending. **Sabrina Luck** said, "I actually got to visit with each person this year!" The Lucks served smoked salmon from **Scotty at Lazy Dog**, tamales from the Center Point 4-H and all the trimmings. Enjoying the fare were **Bobby Templeton, Kelli and James Wright, Mary Sue and Mike Douville, Tasha and Bear Riordan, Carol and Charles Tucker, Sandy Lehde, Candace and Gunner Witt, Marsha Baumann, Barry Wall, Kathy Simmons and Lena Ripstein.**

**Joanne Marie and Me** hosted an **Ugly Christmas Sweater** night with a contest. **Joyce and Russell Friday** came in first place, followed by **Addi Jones**, covered in stick-on bows and **Bruce Cartwright** in a red cashmere blazer. Enjoying the live music were **Callie Wilson, Leslie Eastland, Shanna Lee Schmidt, Robin Wheeler and Rebecca Williamson.**

**Southern Sky Music Café** hosted a **Texana Troubadour** contest for

songwriters/performers on Sunday afternoon. Starting at 4 p.m., The contestants stretched until 7 p.m. Each one played two songs. Locals in the mix were **Baylor White, Braden Toomey, Greg Wall, Chris Sadler, Brock Bushong & James Keith, Scott Rotge, London Baileigh, Chris Booker and Mark Piper.**

**How to Survive the Covid Christmas 2020** — Musings from Denise Cartwright

We had lovely fall weather with ability to entertain outdoors. With daylight savings time and early winter freezes, being outdoors is not comfortable. Temperatures drop rapidly after sunset. Fire pits are fun for an hour. Consider an early afternoon gathering outdoors in the warmer temperatures.

The Cancel Culture returned with a second wave of Covid-19 in our community. The Grinch has stolen Christmas.

How do we get together responsibly?

First, do not shake hands. It's automatic, our custom, to extend a hand. I'm not afraid to say, "No, thanks, I'm not shaking hands yet." Followed by, "I may never shake hands again." Even a quick sideways hug is safer than shaking hands. If you must shake

hands, use sanitizing gel or wash your hands right away.

Secondly, the science says you have to be "swapping air" with someone for 15 minutes to be exposed to the virus. Stay cognizant of that and move on after 10 minutes. The science says to keep a distance of six feet from others to stay safe. And wear a mask inside or out. Using six feet as the standard measure makes cozy cocktail tete-a-tete almost impossible.

There is a theory that you can have a safe pod of cohorts, a group of family, coworkers or friends who spend time together and follow established group protocol. I'm hoping my Mahjong group can be a pod, perhaps even my posse of friends.

There is a positive side to a Covid Christmas. Having made it through several months of quarantine, we now have some experience. There is less panic, despair and day drinking; more supplies on the shelves.

I put up all of my Christmas decorations. It is heartwarming to see all the Christmas lights, points of light and hope. Instead of the mad rush of the holidays, there is time to inhale gratitude and exhale stress; time for reflection, worship and a Hallmark movie; time to reach out in special ways to family and friends with a real live phone call, face time or a zoom party.

Giving is such a big part of the season. Opportunities abound to donate money online from the comfort of your home. The magic of Christmas is still alive, even if different. Heartfelt condolences to all who have lost loved ones from the virus. Merry Christmas to all and to



Photo by Rudolph

**Look for Mrs. Claus at Whoville — a drive through event on Old Ingram Loop on Saturday night.**

all a safe night. The West Kerr Whispers column will return in January.

## Save the Date

Thursday, Dec. 17 — **West Kerr Chamber Mixer**, The Apothecary Shoppe; 5:15 p.m., Kerrville.

Friday, Dec. 18 — **Grand opening and ribbon cutting for Southern Sky Music Café**, 4:30 p.m., Hill Country Arts Foundation, Ingram.

Saturday, Dec. 19 — **Drive-Thru Whoville Christmas**, 6-10 p.m., Old Ingram Loop, Ingram

Until Dec. 18 — **The Art Mart** at the Hill Country Arts Foundation/Visual Arts Center; handmade Christmas shopping extravaganza, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ingram.

Until Dec. 18 — **The Texas Furniture Maker's Show**, Kerr County Arts and Cultural Center; open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Kerrville.

Email your news to [Whispers2Denise@gmail.com](mailto:Whispers2Denise@gmail.com)

# Living Nativity returns Sunday at PowerHour

PowerHour Christian Center in Ingram celebrates the Christmas season with its Second Annual Living Nativity in the church parking lot from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. The church is located at 610 Hwy. 39 across from Ingram Dam.

PowerHour began its Living Nativity last year after Pastors Roy and Lynette Waldrep remembered such events they attended as children, and the congregation decided to bring back the Living Nativity idea to Ingram.

The event is "Small Town America at its best," according to Roy Waldrep.

"This is a family event complete with your favorite Christmas-time Bible characters in costume," he said. "You might be greeted by a sage wise man saying how a great star led him to Bethlehem, or an Inn Keeper explaining how he ran out of room!"

There are shepherds tending their flock of animals and an angel, played by Noel Mumford, who excitedly announces the birth of Christ as depicted in the Book of Luke.

The Living Nativity walk-through culminates at the manger where Mary and Joseph tell of the birth of the Christ Child that night.

The community event is free and designed to bring families together in the Spirit of Christmas. There is ample parking and the church is providing hot drinks and cookies.

More information is available by calling the church at (830) 367-1460.

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**Calvary Temple**  
3000 Loop 534, Kerrville  
895-3000  
[calvarytemplechurch.org](http://calvarytemplechurch.org)  
SUN: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship (nursery available)  
WED: 7:00 p.m. Youth  
7:00 p.m. 4 yrs.-5th grade  
Del Way, Pastor

**Church of Christ**  
610 Hwy. 39, Ingram  
367-3023  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
6:30 p.m. Worship

**Church of Christ on Junction Highway**  
2500 Junction Hwy.  
367-5340  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Worship  
WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Christ Church Presbyterian**  
228 Earl Garrett, Kerrville  
(at the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center)  
[christchurchkerrville.org](http://christchurchkerrville.org)  
SUN: 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Rev. John D. Standridge  
[john@christchurchkerrville.org](mailto:john@christchurchkerrville.org)

**Church of the Hills**  
3325 Junction Hwy., Ingram  
367-4614  
SUN: 10:30 a.m. Worship  
(Cell groups for the interested available)

**Citywest Church**  
3139 Junction Hwy., Ingram  
[office@citywest.org](mailto:office@citywest.org), [www.citywest.org](http://www.citywest.org)  
367-5363  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Morning Coffee & Donut Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. Children's Church & Contemporary Music Sermon  
MON: 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
WED: 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Youth Meet  
Pastor Chris Dahse

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
301 Woodlawn Ave., Kerrville  
257-3004 [kerrvillechristianscientist.org](http://kerrvillechristianscientist.org)  
Services and Sun. School 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Weds. Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
1900 Goat Creek Rd, Kerrville  
895-5355  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Contemporary Worship,  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship & Sunday School  
Rev. Brett W. Coe

**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
Texas Hwy. 39 & Webb Rd., Ingram  
367-5672  
SUN: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
TUES: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study  
Pastor John W. Uhl

**Hill Country Christian Center**  
Ingram 367-4290  
SUN: Sunday School & Worship  
WED: Worship Service

**Hill Country Missionary-Baptist Church ABA**  
107 Redemption Rd.  
890-5373  
SUN: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
Don Trussel, Pastor

**Hill Country Society of Friends (Quakers)**  
2100 Memorial Blvd., Kerrville  
Campus Ministry Center at Schreiner University  
257-4436  
SUN: 10:00 a.m. Worship

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
204 Spence St., Kerrville  
257-4433  
[www.holycrosskerrville.com](http://www.holycrosskerrville.com)  
SUN: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

6 p.m.

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**Hosanna Lutheran Church**  
134 Camp Meeting Rd., Kerrville  
(at Highway 16 South)  
Pastor Dave Bass 257-6767  
Summer schedule (June 3-Labor Day)  
Sundays:  
8:30 a.m. Blended Worship  
10 a.m. Praise Worship

**House of Prayer**  
108 Morgan St., Ingram  
Sun: 10:30 A.M.  
Wed: 6:00 P.M.  
Pastor Randy Dean 367-2525  
Cell: 830-739-9282  
Carolyn Dean 830-739-9283

**St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church**  
2015 Singing Wind Dr., Kerrville  
895-4990 [kerrvilleanglicanchurch.com](http://kerrvilleanglicanchurch.com)  
SUN: 10:00 a.m. Services

**Hunt Baptist Church**  
238-4863 [HuntBaptist@HCTC.net](mailto:HuntBaptist@HCTC.net)  
SUN: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Prayer Service

WED: 6:30 p.m. Worship Awana Bible Club, Children - K-6th  
John Collis, Pastor

**Hunt United Methodist Church**  
120 Merritt Rd. SW  
[www.huntumc.org](http://www.huntumc.org)  
SUN: 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Service  
(Nursery provided on Sunday mornings)  
TUES: 6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
TUES & WED: 9-12 (Sept-May)  
Parent's Morning Out  
Phone 238-4360 [officehumc.net](http://officehumc.net)  
WED: 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study  
5:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
6:00 p.m. Praise Music Group Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
Rev. Paul Harris

**Jewish Community of the Hill Country**  
Services: Fridays at 6:30 p.m. at The Unitarian Universalist Church, 960 Barnett St., Kerrville  
For more information: 830-331-8931

**Live Oak Church of Christ**  
439 Holdsworth Dr., Kerrville  
830-315-9134  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship  
WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Mt. Home Divide Chapel**  
Hwy 41 (near YO gate)  
121 Divide School Rd.  
640-3307  
2nd SUN: 2:30 p.m.  
WED: 11a.m. Bible Study

**New Hope Fellowship**  
A Southern Baptist Congregation  
405 Main St., Ingram  
367-7709  
SUN: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Service  
TUES: 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery  
WEDS: 5:15 p.m. Choir practice  
6:00 p.m. Children's/ Youth Ministry  
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
David Billeiter, Pastor

**Notre Dame Catholic Church**  
Corner of Water & Washington, Kerrville  
257-5961  
SAT: 4:00 p.m. Reconciliation  
5:00 p.m. English Mass  
SUN: Masses 7:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. English - 9:30 a.m. Spanish  
Rev. David Wagner  
Open Arms Ministry  
3167B Junction Hwy., Ingram  
367-1777  
WEDS.: 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
SUN.: 10:30 a.m.-12:36 p.m.  
4 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Sr. Pastor: Thomas Jeffers

**Riverside Church of Christ**  
625 Harper Rd., Kerrville  
257-5445  
SUN: 9:00 a.m. Bible Class and Worship  
5:00 p.m. Worship

WED: 7:00 p.m. Bible Class  
Pulpit minister: Kevin Kasperek

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
611 Harper Rd., Kerrville  
895-3935  
SAT: 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Dwight Seek, Pastor

**St. Paul's United Methodist**  
135 Methodist Encampment Rd., Kerrville 895-2212  
SUN: 9:30 a.m.. Sunday School;  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
WED: 3 p.m After-School Program  
Rev. Sheree Harris

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
School - Janet Boutin, Sch. Dir  
320 St. Peter St., Kerrville  
257-8162 -Church  
257-0257 -School  
SUN: 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)  
Rev. Bert Baetz, Rector  
Rev. J. Michael Wheeler, Asst. Priest  
Summer hours vary, call office for times.

**Sunset Baptist Church**  
Junction Hwy., Mt. Home  
866-3415  
SUN: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
J. Dwayne Smith, Minister

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country**  
Services and Children's, SUN: 10 a.m.  
960 Barnett St., Kerrville  
792-Ja Rickard 257-3626

**Victory Baptist Church**  
501 Mill Run Rd., 896-4558  
Pastor Delano Day  
Worship Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m.



Entertainment

‘A Christmas Carol’ final performances Friday, Saturday

The Playhouse 2000 production of the classic “A Christmas Carol” will have its final two performances on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the VK Garage Theater.

“This story, with its call to embrace the spirit of Christmas and learn to keep it in our hearts, has been a joy to prepare and present,” said P2K Executive Director Jeffrey Brown. “We hope it brings warm feelings to those who come to see it.

“And, we’re really glad to be able to offer this classic show on our stage, given the concern we all have for keeping both audience and cast healthy” he continued. “We’re taking our responsibility seriously, and are working hard to provide as safe an environment as we can.”

Face coverings will be required for everyone entering the two theaters. All staff and volunteer ushers will use best safety practices to ensure minimum risk to those in attendance.

Tickets are limited to just 40 per show to allow for social distancing, so advance reservations are recommended. Tickets for the one-hour production are \$22 per person.

P2K also reminds readers that Season Ticket Packages are now available for the five plays and musicals in their Season 2021. Packages save as much as 15 percent over the cost of single tickets, and



Courtesy photo

Emery Dorman is “Martha Cratchit” in Playhouse 2000’s concert-style production of “A Christmas Carol.” Performances continue Friday and Saturday at 7:30 with limited, “social distance” seating in the VK Garage Theater. Tickets are available at [www.CaillouxPerformingArts.com](http://www.CaillouxPerformingArts.com)

they make great gifts.

The Cailloux Box Office is open through Dec. 19 on their regular schedule; from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Walk-ups are welcome, and telephone orders can be placed by calling (830) 896-9393. Messages can be left at any time to be returned to regular hours.

Tickets also can be reserved online at [www.CaillouxPerformingArt](http://www.CaillouxPerformingArt)

County

Continued from Page 1

father, Don Gray, had been Ingram marshal years ago.

“I have no dog in the hunt, and I think I have an independent point of view,” she said.

Rider said she wants things to be resolved amicably and for people not to fight each other.

“These are lofty goals, and those are my goals. The only people who benefit are the attorneys. I want to reach out with an olive branch to the citizens,” she said, hoping to smooth over with business owners

Kelly noted that without a city manager, the mayor was the executive officer of the city and would take on the administrative duties.

“Yes, I have all the responsibility but almost no say in it. I’m responsible for the day-to-day operations,” Rider said. “The former chief did not feel he could answer to a sitting council, only to one person,” Rider said. “The concern was that a council member could give orders to the chief. ... That would cause chaos. I was willing to be the person the chief could come to. Their (city council) intention was to remove the administrator because they felt they were not all getting their info in an equal manner, and that caused more chaos.”

Rider said the city council will have more knowledge, and that Twiss said she will communicate daily.

“I don’t foresee any major problems,” she said.

Kelly said he wished her the best, and if she needed any help or advice, the county would support her.

She also noted that the

incoming Pct. 4 constable, Brad Rider, is willing to offer his help as well.

Another rumor Rider said she wanted to dispel is that the new council was poised to disband the city and move to unincorporate it, or wanted to defund the police department.

“That is absolutely not the case,” she said. “We want to cut spending and control the budget. Our goal is not to be running in the red but to balance the budget.”

Pct. 3 Commissioner Jonathan Letz thanked Rider for “stepping up.” He also cautioned her about following open meetings rules. He said that some citizens who are entrenched will look for those rules to be broken.

Rider said she is aware, because formerly, the city of Ingram had operated by committees, which led to heated situations, but she felt that now they can conduct business by holding open workshops that anyone could come and watch.

She also said that she was still waiting for another resignation on the council, but did not name that person.

The City of Ingram has the potential to be the star of the Hill Country, Rider said.

Rider noted that even people who do not live in Ingram are impacted by the town of 1,857 people.

“Our hearts go out to you,” Kelly said. “We need to keep the lines of communication open. This is the time for us all to work together.”

Belew said the city needs to put out its own messaging and not let disinformation take hold.

Hierholzer said that until the end of the year, the sheriff’s department will help where it can. Rider said that

their law enforcement personnel situation is difficult.

“For the City of Ingram to be covered 24/7, by one officer takes five people. Between the training, vacation, sick time and the rest, it will take time for Ingram to get it done. We’ll be here to fill the gap,” he said.

Plans for the Hill Country Public Defender’s Office on Earl Garrett Street are moving forward. The office is due to open on Jan. 1, although a larger move-in will take place in March 2021, after more renovations are completed. Asbestos removal, which was approved, will cost \$2,500.

The purchase of just under 16 acres of property between the VA Hospital and the national cemetery at 199 Spur 100 in Kerrville was approved, which will be used in the expansion of Road and Bridge, and for a new location of the Animal Control facility.

The burn ban was extended to all four precincts due to the dry, windy conditions.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Tom Moser said that while aggregate mining is ongoing at the new quarry in eastern Kerr County, a group called Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining has been trying to improve the operation.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has received an application for a permanent rock crusher at the new quarry, and a public meeting will be requested.

Paul Gonzalez, who was elected as Pct. 3 constable, has declined to serve at present, due to his responsibilities as the Student Resource Officer at KISD, a post which he did not want to drop. Kenneth Wilke agreed to serve another term in his place.

Entertainment Guide

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# County records three more Covid fatalities

As the United States saw its first vaccinations against Covid-19 administered Monday, Dec. 14, Kerr County citizens are continuing to experience the negative effects of the novel coronavirus, among them 44 new positives from the weekend and three additional fatalities.

In the first of two reports he issues each week, Kerr County Emergency Management Coordinator William B. “Dub” Thomas stated that there are currently 308 active cases of Covid-19 in the county, while 1,552 people have recovered from the virus.

“I still do not have the information on the testing done during last week’s Dec. 9 clinic just yet, so the increased numbers we’re seeing over the past weekend are from individuals who have sought out testing in other ways,” Thomas said. “I will relay the information from the clinic, just as soon as it is available.”

According to Peterson Regional Medical Center, there was an additional fatality at the Kerrville hospital today, Dec. 14, while two more deaths of permanent county residents due to Covid-19 were reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services. When Kerr County hears of deaths of local residents from the DSHS, it usually means those residents died at a facility outside of the county.

The trio of new fatalities reported Monday, brings the official count to 30 Covid-19 fatalities, Thomas added.

As of Monday, Peterson Regional Medical Center reported that its number of hospitalizations, while down from Friday, is still high – with 18 people hospitalized and receiving treatment for Covid-19.

Unless circumstances call for an earlier report, the next summary update will be Thursday, Dec. 17.

He recommends that anyone who experiences any of the symptoms of Covid-19, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, or that think they have had exposure to someone who was later confirmed positive for the virus, call their primary physician or the Peterson Outreach Clinic at 830-258-7814.

The CDC says the following are symptoms of the novel coronavirus to watch for: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea.

As a reminder: Everyone in Kerr County is being asked to obey the governor’s statewide, mandatory mask order. The order, which is still in effect, underlines the importance of covering faces in public to prevent the further spread of the virus.



Courtesy photo

## IES Students of the week

Ingram Elementary School's Students of the Week are: Maverick Payne - Pre K, Olivia Goodman - Kindergarten, Julio Barrera - 1st grade, Allison Balderas - 2nd grade, Kate Vanacker - 3rd grade, Adelyn Mata - 4th grade and Alex Upton - 5th grade.

## Women

Continued from Page 1

the IPD name back to Ingram Marshal’s Office, Twiss thinks it would not be prudent.

“I would like us to see it stay as the Ingram Police Department,” Twiss said. “That would be the most cost-effective choice. Otherwise, we would have to spend a whole lot of money to change all our letterhead stationery, the logos on our patrol cars, and other things. That would be much too expensive, considering our entire budget of about \$600,000 a year.”

Another valuable ally will come on board on Jan. 1, 2021, when Brad Rider takes the oath of office as Pct. 4 constable. He has already been helping out with organizing.

“I expect all of our people to be professional, and capable, to be the best we can. I’m looking for the most qualified personnel, the best we can get,” Twiss said. “TCOLE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement) has a personnel application for our department that is 35 pages long.”

Once an application is completed, there are other checks



Kathy Rider, right, learned a lot from her father, former Ingram marshal Don Gray.

that need to be done, such as background and criminal investigation check (including former employers, residences and personal references), as well as a physical, a drug screen and psychological profile.

Twiss herself comes with a great degree of law enforcement experience, starting with jail administration, the transition to the new jail, and then on to work in the patrol division. She now needs to clear up the evidence files and, in line with best practices, oversee the officers’ training skills.

“They’ll need to get their feet wet for a few days,” Twiss said, “and we’ll need to point them in the right direction. I think it will take time, but before too long, we will be up and running.”

She has been involved in community affairs, such as being a member of the Executive Women’s Club, vice-president of the Hill Country Crisis Council, Rotary member, and a former board member of Hilco Federal Credit Union.

Kathy Rider, the new Ingram mayor, is also up to

He said no final decision has been made. “The school board directed me to review and do some due diligence in terms of research on what it would take to hire a certified police officer at the school district,” Templeton said.

He added it isn’t a matter of not having faith in anybody else.

“It’s just another layer of protection. There’s nothing more important than student and staff safety,” he said.

## West Kerr Current will not publish Dec. 31

The West Kerr Current will not publish a Dec. 31, 2020 edition to give employees time off for the holidays.

The Current will resume publishing with the Jan. 7 edition.

## Ingram ISD

Continued from Page 1

Ingram ISD Superintendent Dr. Robert Templeton said. “This just adds another layer of protection for our staff and students.”

He noted Harper and Center Point school district have police departments.

“It’s kind of a growing trend among school districts,” he said.

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Sports

Three ITM seniors sign to play college volleyball

By Clint Schroeder  
West Kerr Current

A signing ceremony for three Ingram Tom Moore High School seniors to play college volleyball was held last Friday.

Friends, coaches, teammates, parents, siblings and admirers gathered in the Ingram ISD auditorium foyer as Karlie Bonam, Anna Crittenden and Makenna Gelsone inked their letters of intent.

Bonam will play for Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. and Crittenden and Gelsone will play for Vernon College in Vernon, Texas.

Ingram ISD Athletic Director Duane Kroeker said the students are reaping the rewards for all the time and effort they've put in.

He said they are the three leaders of teams that were 29-1 and went to the regional finals this year, and last year's 33-7 team that went to area finals.

"That's 62-8 in the last two years," Kroeker said. "That's quite a record," adding it's a testament to the coaches, all the players and the three players signing letters.

Bonam is the daughter of



Photo by Tony Gallucci

Seated at signing day with family members and new coaches are, from left, Karlie Bonam, Anna Crittenden and Makenna Gelsone.

David and Melanie Bonam. Her accomplishment include District Offensive Player of the Year 2020, District Blocker of the Year 2018, All District Team 2017-2020, Academic All District (2017-2020) Academic All State (2020) / NHS Member Team, Awards: Most Improved 2018, Warrior Heart 2019 and a letter winner in

basketball, track and tennis. Crittenden is the daughter of Justin and Jennifer Crittenden.

Among her accolades and honors are District Most Valuable Player 2020, District Defensive Player of the Year 2019, All District Team 2017-2020, All State VB Team

2019, Academic All District (2017-2020) Academic All State (2020) / NHS Member; Team Awards: Most Valuable Player 2018 and 2019 and a letter winner in basketball, track and tennis.

Gelsone is the daughter of Shawn and Brett Heimann/Jeff and Carol

Gelsone. Her awards include District Newcomer of the Year 2018, All District Team 2018-2020, Academic All District (2018-2020) Academic All State (2020) / NHS Member; Team Awards: Warrior Heart 2018, letter winner in basketball and a three-year graduate.

Warrior Basketball 2020-21

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TEAMS	TIMES
Tue, Dec 1	D'Hanis	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Dec 4	Lytle	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Tue, Dec 8	Bandera	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Dec 11	Karnes City	ITM	JV/V	6/7:15
Sat, Dec 12	Leakey	Leakey	JV/V	12:30/1:45
Tue, Dec 15	Marion	ITM	JV/V	6/7:30
Fri, Dec 18	BYE			
Mon, Dec 28	Sabinal	Sabinal	JV/V	1/2:15
Tue, Dec 29	Boerne Geneva	Geneva	V	TBA
Tue, Jan 5	Hondo	ITM	JV/V	5/6:30
Tue, Jan 12	Blanco*	ITM	JV/V	5/7:30
Fri, Jan 15	IDEA*	IDEA	JV/V	5/7:30
Tue, Jan 19	Comfort*	ITM	JV/V	5/7:30
Fri, Jan 22	Lago Vista*	Lago Vista	JV/V	5/7:30
Tue, Jan 26	Llano*	ITM	JV/V	5/7:30
Fri, Jan 29	Blanco*	Blanco	JV/V	5/7:30
Tue, Feb 2	IDEA*	ITM	JV/V	5/7:30
Fri, Feb 5	Comfort*	Comfort	JV/V	5/7:30
Tue, Feb 9	Lago Vista*	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Feb 12	Llano*	Llano	JV/V	5/6:15

\*Denotes 26-3A Game

WARRIOR COACHING STAFF:  
Head Coach: Kenny Mulkey  
Asst. Coaches: Hank Stiteler  
MS Coaches: Kevin Landgrebe, Brian Tollett

WARRIOR ADMINISTRATORS:  
Athletic Director: Duane Kroeker  
HS Principal: Justin Crittenden  
Superintendent: Dr. Robert Templeton

Lady Warrior Basketball 2020-21

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TEAMS	TIMES
Fri, Dec 4	Junction	ITM	V/JV	5/6:30
Sat, Dec 5	Johnson City	Johnson City	JV/V	11/12:30
Tue, Dec 8	Natalia	Natalia	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Dec 11	Center Point	Center Point	V	5
Sat, Dec 12	Leakey	Leakey	JV/V	10/11:15
Tue, Dec 15	Bye			
Fri, Dec 18	Harper	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Sat, Dec 19	Pearsall	ITM	JV/V	11:30/1
Mon, Dec 21	Pettus	Pettus	JV/V	Noon/1:15
Mon, Dec 21	Three Rivers	Three Rivers	JV/V	5/6:15
Tue, Dec 29	Pearsall	Pearsall	JV/V	11:30/1
Tue, Jan 5	Lago Vista*	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Jan 8	Llano*	Llano	JV/V	5/6:15
Tue, Jan 12	Blanco*	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Jan 15	canceled			
Tue, Jan 19	Comfort*	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Jan 22	Lago Vista*	Lago Vista	JV/V	5/6:15
Tue, Jan 26	Llano*	ITM	JV/V	5/6:15
Fri, Jan 29	Blanco*	Blanco	JV/V	5/6:15
Tue, Feb 2	canceled			
Fri, Feb 5	Comfort	Comfort	JV/V	5/6:15

\*Denotes 65-3A Games

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# Outdoors

## Growing and caring for amaryllis

The amaryllis was named after a nymph in Greek mythology. She fell desperately in love with a shepherd and learned that what he wanted most in the world was a flower that had never been seen.

An oracle told Amaryllis to pierce her heart with a golden arrow and go to the shepherd's door every day until he noticed her. She did this for 29 days, and some blood splattered along her path each day.

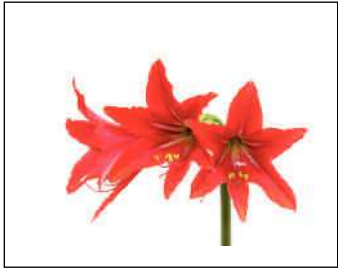
On the 30th day, she noticed the most some dazzling blood red flowers and gathered them. She took them to the shepherd, and he thought they were them the most beautiful flowers he had ever seen, and he fell in love with the her.

Now for more practical information about your amaryllis bulbs. To keep it as a potted bulb, remove the flower scapes after the plant has completely finished blooming, but don't remove any leaves. The bulb needs the leaves to die normally in order to rejuvenate itself.

At that point, you can simply plant it directly in a bed outside in an area with filtered sun. It will reward you annually in your garden, but probably not in December.

The alternative is to keep watering and feeding it about 1/2 strength fertilizer until September. In September, stop fertilizing, gradually stop watering, and finally turn the pot on its side or bring it back inside to let the foliage dry.

When the plant is yellowed and dried, cut the leaves to about 1 inch from the top of the bulb and store in a cool, dry, dark place for



## Devil's Sinkhole to host 'First Day Hike' on Jan. 1

Every Jan. 1, state parks across the country host "America's First Day Hikes" events and this year is no exception for the Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area.

To join the free event at the Devil's Sinkhole, call the volunteers of the Devil's Sinkhole Society at 830-683-2287 or e-mail at devilssinkhole@swtexas.net. Reservations are recommended.

Hikers will meet at the Rocksprings Visitors Center on the Rocksprings town square at 9 a.m. and then drive to the state natural area by personal vehicle.

### The Dirt on Hill Country Gardening



David Steinbrunner  
Linda Tarrant

about eight weeks.

In early November, check to see if the bulb has outgrown its pot and repot it. The pot should have a diameter of about one to two inches larger than the diameter of the bulb, and they will need to be repotted about every three to four years.

To repot in a clay pot, soak the pot in water overnight (a plastic pot doesn't need to be soaked), then use broken shards in the bottom of the pot, mound rich potting soil, and spread the moistened roots of the bulb over the mound of soil and fill around it.

Water thoroughly with tepid water and leave in a bright room. Turn a quarter turn a day to cause the flower stalk to grow straight. Stake as necessary, and continue to water regularly, but don't use fertilizer or get the leaves wet.

You should have blooms in six to eight weeks, just in time for next Christmas!

### Personal Plant of the Week:

Recommended plant of the week is the **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*). This is a good, native tree that grows 30 to 40 feet tall with a like breadth. It is grown for its attractive foliage. It is served well by regular watering, but can easily sustain droughts.

### Chores for this week:

- Mulch, if you haven't already.
- Plant cold-tolerant plants and trees.

We encourage your questions, comments, or your own "Personal Plant of the Week" by writing David at dsteiny@gvvc.com.

Linda Tarrant is an Ingram gardener and David Steinbrunner is a Hunt horticulturist.

## 'Christmas Star' visible on Dec. 21

It's with great excitement that we look forward to Christmas and the renewed hope it brings after a long hard year.

It's even more exciting now with the news of a "Christmas Star" on Dec. 21. The shortest day of the year will bring us much light as two planets align.

This will look like a double planet and produce a significant amount of light. This is the first time this has happened in 800 years and was not seen since the Middle Ages!

The conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter will look like a bright star and will be visible on the winter solstice in the southwestern sky.

Some scientists believe the Biblical Star of Bethlehem

### Explore Texas



Carol Wier

could have been from such an event.

Johannes Kepler, famous German astronomer, speculated that the Star of David written about in the Bible may have actually been a triple conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter and Venus.

The last time such an event was visible to the naked eye was 1226 according to EarthSky.



Courtesy photo

On the winter solstice this year the planets will be close to the horizon and the moon a sliver. You will need to view them just after sunset as they will set shortly thereafter!

The meeting of these two planets is rare compared to the other planets and last seen with telescopes in 1623 but was close to the sun and hardly visible. Keep in mind

the plants are still millions of miles apart in their own orbits.

According to NASA, "the plants will appear just a tenth of a degree apart, which is equivalent to the thickness of a dime held at arm's length."

Carol Wier, former science teacher and resident of Hunt, now lives in Vanderpool.

## A look at our foul-weather friends

I thought I knew something about Texas waterfowl hunting.

After all, my earliest hunting adventures included wading a large pond near the Gulf to hunt ducks during high school years — finding out later that it was full of alligators.

Then, I acquired a brother-in-law who owned 10,000 acres of rice, cattle land and duck ponds near Devers, also enjoyed countless hunts in the rice-rich areas west of Houston, and even hunted geese and Sandhill cranes in the Panhandle.

But as I sat down to write this column, I sought a favorite outfitter, and googled "Waterfowl hunting guides in Texas" to locate him.

That was surprising. Up came 57 different hunting operations scattered across Texas. The first two tell the tale of diversity. First Shot Outfitters is near Coleman and Swamp Nasty Outfitters is in the Bonham area — half-way across Texas from each other and about the same distance or more from the legendary rice and soybean belt inland from the coast running from Beaumont to near Victoria. I've never hunted with either of the two guides mentioned but use them as examples of the waterfowl hunting range throughout Texas.

I also remember an afternoon flight years ago in a small Parks and Wildlife plane at low altitude and marveling over all the water-reflected, late afternoon sunlight shining up at me the entire way back to Austin from Dallas.

Despite the vast urbanization caused by high tech and our welcoming economy, Texas is still an agricultural state.

Huge water impoundments are also waterfowl attractors, as are private ponds developed by new, rural landowners. I can only imagine waterfowl parents telling chicks not to fret over northern ponds rapidly icing: "Tomorrow, we're flying to Texas — a land of open water

### Woods, Waters & Wildlife



John Jefferson

and abundant food!"

Texas big-bird hunters are lucky. We're at the end of the line in the Central Flyway, the aerial "Highway One" for waterfowl fleeing the north as winter temperatures and snowstorms blanket their homeland and feeding grounds.

And, as the Internet revealed, hunting the web-footed flocks is available in most of the eastern two-thirds of Texas. Much of it's awaiting hunters just a doable drive from population centers.

Goose hunting on the legendary Lissie Egypt Prairie west of Houston became a sad story a few years back when drought and falling lake levels in Central Texas decimated the rice industry.

All remaining water was hunted, pressuring birds away. That could explain the increased number of upstate guides.

Now, rice farmers still in business have water, and rice and geese have returned — somewhat. TPWD Migratory program leader, Kevin Kraii, estimates 500,000 geese in Texas presently -- nowhere near what was here before.

David Butler, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department area waterfowl biologist, reports that many more northern geese are poised to come. Increasing numbers of pintails have been observed, too, although neither species justifies an increase in the



Photo by John Jefferson

Ten years ago, geese and ducks were plentiful along the rice farming area east and west of Houston, and hunting was extraordinary. Drought throughout Central Texas curtailed water supply and rice farming was severely impacted, forcing some farmers to seek other crops or occupations and waterfowl to change winter roosting sites. Populations are slowly improving. Duck season and East Zone goose season are open until Jan. 31 and West Zone goose season closes Feb. 14.

reduced bag limits of 10 snow geese and one pintail.

TPWD is working on a water plan, but it will take

time. Patience is a virtue.

John Jefferson is an Austin-based outdoors writer.

Cedar trees are killing native grasses and trees; and consuming millions of gallons of water.

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2020	SPORTING TIMES					LUNAR TIMES				
	A. M.		P. M.		SUN		MOON		MOON	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Rises	Sets	Rises	Sets	Up	Down
<u>December</u>										
17 Thu	> 7:48	1:34	8:16	2:02	07:26	05:38	10:22a	8:56p	3:37p	3:09a
18 Fri	8:49	2:36	9:15	3:02	07:26	05:39	11:06a	9:59p	4:30p	4:04a
19 Sat	9:45	3:33	10:09	3:57	07:27	05:39	11:45a	10:58p	5:19p	4:55a
20 Sun	10:36	4:25	10:58	4:47	07:27	05:39	12:18p	11:54p	6:03p	5:42a
21 Mon	11:21	5:11	11:42	5:32	07:28	05:40	12:48p	NoMoon	6:45p	6:25a
22 Tue	Q -----	5:52	12:02	6:12	07:28	05:40	1:16p	12:48a	7:25p	7:05a
23 Wed	12:20	6:30	12:40	6:50	07:29	05:41	1:44p	1:41a	8:05p	7:45a

\*Major=2 hours/Minor=1 hour Times are centered on the major/minor window  
F = Full Moon N = New Moon Q = Quarter > = Peak Activity!  
\*Daylight Saving Time in effect

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Photos by Irene Van Winkle

The entire Ingram Volunteer Fire Department was named as “Fire Fighter of the Year” at this year’s Christmas party and awards dinner. Fire Chief Ray Lynch (back row, fourth from left wearing hat) has announced he will retire in 2021.

IVFD

Continued from Page 1

“Heads were turned toward the new truck all the way from Hillsboro, Texas,” Lynch said. “A big thank you to our Commissioners of ESD#1.” Lynch read a roll call of IVFD responses for the year. “Since January 1, 2020, we have answered 145 calls,”

Lynch noted, which included: 15 structure fires, 21 brush/grass fires, 38 Motor vehicle accidents, 20 alarm activations, 16 Cordin Zones, 5 assisting other agencies, 5 vehicle fires, 4 mutual aids, 4 smoke scares, 3 assist the public, 3 trees fallen in road from storms, 2 transformer/power /pole fires, 2 hot spots, 2 illegal burnings, 1 burn ban violation, 1 check water crossing, and

one outdoor fire (BBQ pit). In this very unusual and difficult year, the entire fire department collectively was named “Fire fighter of the Year.” IVFD Chief Ray Lynch received a special award, since he had announced that he will be retiring in the spring of 2021. Among his gifts were a custom-designed thermal cup, personalized with his name. Hunter House restaurant family and staff brought in a hearty Mexican style dinner, which was quickly consumed.

Eder Alvarez was recognized as “Most Improved Fire Fighter” of the year, an award that is voted on by the entire IVFD. Memorial plaques were also made for the department’s fallen heroes, David Lynch (2015) and Fred Streit (2016). IVFD Members receiving longevity pins were Justin “Cookie Conley, five years; Tony Fernandez, 10 years; Diana Baccus, 20 years; Tammy Landin, 35 years; Cole Morris, 40 years; and Ray Lynch, 45 years.



Enjoying the dinner and camaraderie are, from left, Tayler Morris and her mom, Laura Morris (each holding a twin (Dax and Dawson), along with Ronnie Benoit right.



Special plaques were made in memory of two fire-fighters who have passed, Fred Streit and David Lynch.

**Gillespie Livestock Co. Inc.**  
**December 9, 2020**

Cattle 1314 HD		
Cows & Bulls	1.00-2.00 Higher	
Steers	550 Up 2-5 Higher	550 Down Steady
Heifers		1-2 Higher
Cows	30.00-56.00 CWT	
Bulls	70.00-80.00 CWT	
Bred Cows	600.00-900.00 HD	
Cow & Calf Pairs	1000.00-1100.00 PR	
Plain Cattle	25.00-75.00 CWT	

**Medium to Large Frame #1**  
**STEERS**  
200-300 lb. 140.00-190.00 CWT  
300-400 lb 140.00-192.50 CWT  
400-500 lb 130.00-187.50 CWT  
500-600 lb 120.00-165.00 CWT  
600-700 lb 115.00-145.00 CWT  
700-800 lb 110.00-125.00 CWT  
**HEIFERS**  
120.00-170.00 CWT  
120.00-165.00 CWT  
110.00-143.00 CWT  
105.00-130.00 CWT  
95.00-118.00 CWT  
90.00-113.00 CWT

**Sheep & goats: 3285 HD**  
**HEAVY LAMBS - 15 Higher**  
**LIGHT LAMBS - 20 Higher**  
#1 WOOL LAMBS 40-60 LB 130.00-300.00 CWT  
#1 WOOL Lambs 60-80 LB 130.00-300.00 CWT  
BBD LAMBS 40-60# 120.00-300.00 CWT  
DORPX LAMBS 40-60# 180.00-455.00 CWT  
DORPX LAMBS 60-80# 140.00-325.00 CWT  
SLAUGHTER LAMBS, 45-80# 150.00-455.00 CWT  
SLAUGHTER LAMBS 100-150# 105.00-307.00 CWT  
Packer Ewes 50.00-130.00 CWT  
SHEEP BUCKS/RAMS 80.00-180.00 CWT  
#1 Sp/BOEX Kids 20-40# 250.00-570.00 CWT  
#1 Sp BOEX Kids 40-60# 240.00-390.00 CWT  
#1 SP BOEX Kids 60-80# 220.00-380.00 CWT  
Sp/BOEX Muttons 230.00-380.00 CWT  
Angora Kids 220.00-315.00 CWT  
LOWER QUALITY KIDS 200.00-250.00 CWT  
PACKER SP/BOEX NANNIES 110.00-220.00 CWT  
STOCKER SP/BOEX NANNIES 160.00-260.00 CWT  
Angora Nannies 60.00-145.00 CWT  
BOEX BILLIES 145.00-250.00 CWT

**December 8, 2020**  
**KIDS - Steady**  
**LIGHT KIDS - Steady**  
Representative Sales  
1 BLK STR 640# 145.00 CWT  
1 BLK STR 405# 185.00 CWT

**House Plan**  
[www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com](http://www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com)

This inviting, richly windowed A-frame could be a vacation retreat, though its full-featured interior makes it equally well-suited for year-round living. Abundant natural light washes into a two-story great room that's open to the kitchen. An owners' suite is above, two bedrooms below. A railled deck wraps around ¾ of the exterior. For more details, log onto [www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com](http://www.Home-Plan-Weekly.com), or call 1-800-634-0123.

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Deck  
Owners' Suite 16'2" x 17'2"  
Study 8'6" x 9'2"  
Vaulted Loft 25' x 7'5"  
Open to Great Room Below

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

1			5		9		
	3		7			8	
		5		8			4
	9		7		3		
6				1		7	
		2	5				1
	2		8				7
7				6	8		
		3	4			9	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**  
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solution on Page 11

West Kerr Business Directory

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VALUES

Continued from Page 1

many Kerr County landowners were able to reduce their valuations – from \$60s to mid \$70s per acre.

What won some of the protests was the difference in land quality throughout the county; for example good pastureland versus rocky, cedar-covered terrain.

He thinks that some progress was made with KCAD in recognizing the distinction between different land classes, but the heart of the discrepancy is the accuracy of the data collected on the annual questionnaires and the “skewed” calculation formula.

First, there is the challenge of people even returning the questionnaires. Many people find questions asking, “What is your gross revenue?” invasive and simply don’t respond.

Second, not considering all expenses when establishing land productivity value is inaccurate according to Priour.


Third, he thinks application of the United States Department of Agriculture-National Agriculture Statistic Service’s weighted ag productivity formula preferable to the “skewed weighted formula” used.

Already through ongoing conversations with KCAD, Priour has found some areas of agreement.

Priour said, “They will establish three subclasses of native pasture. I would urge ranchers to figure out a comfortable carrying capacity for livestock in acres per animal for all of their adjoining acres in Kerr County as a whole. I think this would be the most

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AUCTIONS

**Real Estate Auctions:** 10+/- ac w/Office, Home & Warehouse – Jan 21. Public Inspection 11-2 p.m. Fri., Dec 18 & Jan 8. Three Rivers, TX, 345 & 349 Highway 72. Just over an hour from San Antonio & Corpus Christi. Auctions: 11am, Thu Jan 21 on site or bid live from anywhere at [auctionnetwork.com](http://auctionnetwork.com). 800-801-8003, [williamsauction.com/TX](http://williamsauction.com/TX).

**43rd Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale** Jan. 23, 2021, 12:00 Noon, El Campo Livestock Auction, El Campo, TX. Expecting 100 Bulls. Also selling a group of select females. [www.cattlemansale.com](http://www.cattlemansale.com)

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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Entrap 2. Legend;  
3. Inward; 4. Hinder

Today's Word


RETIRING

Puzzle on Page 4

1	8	7	4	5	3	9	6	2
4	3	9	7	6	2	1	8	5
2	6	5	9	1	8	7	3	4
5	9	1	6	7	4	3	2	8
6	4	8	3	2	1	5	7	9
3	7	2	5	8	9	6	4	1
9	2	6	8	3	5	4	1	7
7	1	4	2	9	6	8	5	3
8	5	3	1	4	7	2	9	6

Sudoku

Solution to Puzzle on Page 10



Solution to Crossword on Page 4

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What was the theme song for the 1997 movie “Titanic”?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is an espadrille?
- FIRSTS: Which company was the first to use an assembly line to manufacture its products?
- TELEVISION: What was Marge’s maiden name on the animated comedy “The Simpsons”?
- FOOD & DRINK: What are the main ingredients in a modern mince pie?
- U.S. STATES: This city has two prominent nicknames, and one of them is The Crescent City. What is the city and state?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby puffin called?
- ADVERTISING MASCOTS: What product did Mr. Whipple represent for more than 20 years?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is an old name for north China?
- MATH: What Arabic number is the equivalent of the Roman numerals MCLMX?

Answers

- “My Heart Will Go On”
- A rope-soled canvas shoe
- Ford Motor Co.
- Bouvier
- Dried fruits and spices
- New Orleans, Louisiana. The other nickname is The Big Easy.
- A puffling
- Charmin bathroom tissue
- Cathay
- 1960

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accurate data to establish subclasses. Also, KCAD agreed not to use the weighted average formula.”

However, the ag questionnaire remains a quagmire for Priour.

“KCAD needs to be asking for a net number not gross to establish accurate ag and hunting productivity value,” said Priour.

Currently, the questionnaire does ask about fence, windmill, pump and well construction, replacement or repair as well as brush or cedar clearing. However, Priour identifies a number of basic ranching and hunting expenses not considered in the current questionnaire: cost of road construction and maintenance as well as hunting operation expenses. In fact, specific to hunting leases, there is nowhere on the questionnaire for net revenue regarding hunting operations.

“The key is the questionnaire,” said Priour. He has created a revised ag questionnaire that he is encouraging area ranchers to return to him at: 530 Henderson Branch Rd., Ingram, TX 78025.

“The manual specifically says you have to reduce to a net-typical cash lease regarding hunting. What my questionnaire tries to do is define a typical cash-rent lease and exclude all the other methods for hunting income which aren’t cash-rent leases.

“The exclusions weed out all the other methods charging for hunting. If you do that and you get to the typical cash-rent lease, the only expenses you have to be concerned with are those currently listed in section two in the KCAD questionnaire, except for the expense of roads.”

He encourages every rancher to complete his questionnaire and is willing to discuss and answer any questions.

His questionnaire can be found at the West Kerr Chamber of Commerce website or people may email Priour directly to request a questionnaire. Priour said that KCAD will not distribute a revised questionnaire this year, but they are willing to discuss changes. Priour is going to tabulate all the data

he collects and present to KCAD officials.

At the heart of this and many other taxation issues is the question of “Who is in charge?” KCAD is perhaps the best example of existing between a rock and a hard place. The comptroller’s office sets the revenue targets using rules and guidelines established by the Texas Legislature and USDA, and KCAD is placed in the role of enforcement.

Annie Edenfield, RPA, CCA, ag and residential appraiser for KCAD, said, “KCAD uses what the state comptroller’s office requires for all the counties in Texas. Our survey has been approved by the comptroller’s office. It would be unethical for KCAD to use the (Priour’s) proposed net calculations.”

However, Priour, imbued with generations of ranchers’ grit, is committed to resolving what he fundamentally views as unfair taxation, so he plans to keep lobbying for revisions to the questionnaire.

“KCAD Chief Appraiser Sharon Constantinides, (RPA, CCA), has also told me that the controller’s target for ag productivity value for this next year is \$87!” said Priour. “So unless we get plenty of real and accurate data, we are going to repeat this protest nightmare again next summer.

“Sharon claims that she will stand up to the comptroller if we can give her enough accurate data to use, and she will consider all our data when she returns in January.”

Priour said, “The first thing people can do who are concerned about rising property taxes on agricultural land is complete the revised confidential questionnaire by Jan. 31 which will present a more comprehensive portrayal of ag productivity valuations.

“Please note this questionnaire does not replace the official KCAD questionnaire that has already been mailed to area landowners and is also due Jan. 31, 2021.”

Priour’s questionnaires are posted at the West Kerr Chamber website [wkcc.com](http://wkcc.com), or available by request through Lary Priour at [larypriour@icloud.com](mailto:larypriour@icloud.com).

“The only place we advertised our garage sale was in the West Kerr Current - - and we had lots of lookers and buyers. Our garage sale was a great success thanks to the West Kerr Current!”

The Araiza Family

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## Kerr County temporarily closes Pct. 4 offices

In an effort to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in the community, some Kerr County offices are temporarily closed to in-person visitation.

Kerr County Tax Assessor-Collector Bob Reeves said Thursday, Dec. 10, that the temporary closures apply to the West Kerr Annex, located at 3350 Junction Hwy. in Ingram, as well as the offices of the Precinct 4 Justice of the

Peace and Constable.

“Even though we are closing the doors for a while to foot traffic, I assure you that our staff members are working and stand ready and able to assist citizens as they conduct their vehicle registrations or tax business by phone, mail or online methods,” Reeves said.

“Given the increase of Covid-19 active cases in the community of late, the deci-

sion was made out of an abundance of caution to protect the public,” he added, saying that he expects the Ingram tax office to remain closed until at least Jan. 4, 2021.

Citizens needing assistance may call the Kerrville tax office at 830-792-2243. It continues to be open to the public in Suite 124 of the Kerr County Courthouse, 700 Main St. in Kerrville.

For more information about

tax payments online, <https://www.co.kerr.tx.us/tax/payments/>. Also, individuals may renew their vehicle registrations online at the following site: <https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/register-your-vehicle>.



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## Council

Continued from Page 1

the effects of Covid transmission,” she said.

Council then accepted the resignation of Council Member Shirley Trees, who did not attend the meeting, and tabled a motion to appoint her replacement.

Council then approved a motion by Jordan to appoint Carol Twiss as interim police chief, which was approved.

Council also passed a motion approving longevity pay for the police department, and then adjourned.

Twiss then addressed the audience and said she is honored to have been appointed chief.

“I’ve been working closely with City of Ingram officials to address the most immediate needs following the recent resignation of Chief Griffin,” Twiss said.

Former Chief Byron Griffin and the rest of the department had submitted their resignations by the time of the meeting.

Twiss said they are in the process of filling the vacancies and she has been in contact with the sheriff and constable offices, who will assist in providing services until the department is staffed.

“We are also working closely with the Ingram

school district administration to continue campus security. I know that’s important. We take school safety seriously and we know the children will be taken care of,” she said.


Twiss said she will be visiting local businesses to hear their concerns, and will establish an email system where citizens can contact her with concerns, questions or sug-

gestions, measure to prevent the spread of Covid.

“My door is open. If the phone rings, I’ll answer the phone. I will answer your questions; if you have concerns I implore you to call me and we will work it out,” she said. “Thank you for trusting me to take care of your city.”

Twiss then took the oath of office, administered by the mayor.

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