

Local unemployment claims stabilize, remain low

Workforce economy experts discuss 'recession proof' jobs

By Richard Zowie
Special to the Highlander
Even as politicians and media commentators debate whether or not a recession is here and, if it is, who's to blame, fewer local residents are filing unemployment claims.
Judging by employment fig-

ures in Burnet and Llano Counties, it's feeling like all is still well.
According to numbers from the Texas Workforce Commission, Burnet County's unemployment filings remain

significantly lower than this time last year.
From May 8, 2021 to August 7, 2021, weekly jobless claims reached as high as 34 and was down only 11. Each week was in
Claims... see Page 5



Fletcher



Hernandez

"Thanks to the diversification of our local industries, the economy of the Highland Lakes region continues to strengthen."

— Brian Hernandez
Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

HSB begins look at flood-prone crossings

By Phil Reynolds
Staff Writer
Horseshoe Bay is embarking on an ambitious \$550,000 project to map and control the seven drainage channels through the city.
Horseshoe Bay City Council members on Tuesday, Aug. 30 gave City Manager Jeff Koska authority to negotiate a contract for that.
The apparent contractor will be Walter P. Morre and Associates Inc., of Austin.
Koska told council members the study will attempt to identify flood-prone areas and identify needed improvements to
Flood... see Page 2



Several hundred runners participated in Capt'n Karl's "THE ORIGINAL & LONGEST RUNNING NIGHT TRAIL SERIES IN THE COUNTRY" event on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 27 and 28 at Reveille Peak Ranch. See more photos on page 12.

Photos by Martelle Luedecke/Luedecke Photography

Police, schools meet on safety

By Connie Swinney
Associate Editor
Marble Falls area first responders spent half a day Aug. 30 with Marble Falls Independent School District officials to plan, streamline, reinforce, discuss and plan protocols and practices that keep students, educators and visitors safe on campuses.
"We have it every year. They get all the public safety partners from the area — the county, Granite Shoals, us, EMS, fire, everybody," Marble Falls Police Chief Glenn Hanson said. "We go over it to keep it fresh in everyone's mind."
"These meetings just make sure everybody is on

Safety... see Page 3



Contributed photo

Granite Shoals Police Capt. John Ortis, pictured here with his wife Samantha, was sworn in by outgoing Police Chief Gary Boshears during an Aug. 31 ceremony at Granite Shoals City Hall. At that time, Boshears was also recognized by city officials for more than 16 years of service to the municipality. Boshears has accepted the police chief position in Lago Vista.

Hearing set in Llano County libraries lawsuit

By Phil Reynolds
Staff Writer
U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman Wednesday called for the parties in a lawsuit against Llano County and the county library system to a hearing on a preliminary injunction in the case. The hearing is set for Friday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. in Courtroom 4 on the fifth floor of the U.S. Courthouse, 501 W. Fifth St., Austin.
Seven county library patrons sued the county and the library board in April,

claiming the county and board members had removed books from library shelves because they disagreed with ideas the books contained. They said the actions were taken in secret and without public input, and claimed that violated their First (freedom of speech) and Fifteenth (freedom from unreasonable search and seizure) Amendments of the Constitution.
The plaintiffs also said the board should not have removed the OverDrive electronic book system from the

library, saying it was the only way some elderly or handicapped patrons had to check out books.
The injunction asks for replacement of the books, a prohibition against removing more, and reinstatement of the OverDrive system.
Pitman has not ruled on a request from the Texas Attorney General's Office asking that the office be part of the defense in the case. That request claimed Llano County had insufficient resources to defend a suit in federal court.


The Highlander office,
905 Third St. in Marble Falls, will be closed in observance of Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.



Counties lift bans on outdoor burning

From staff reports
Burnet County and Llano County both are now allowing residents to conduct outdoor burns, as rainfall amounts and moisture levels in recent weeks have reduced the fire danger.
As of Aug. 31 Burnet County officials lifted their burn ban.
Burn ban status may be confirmed at any time by calling the Burnet County Sheriff's Office at 512-756-8080, the Burnet County Courthouse at 512-756-5420, Burnet County Development Services at 512-756-5437 or the county Web site at burnet-countytexas.org.
Burnet County outdoor burning guidelines are as follows:
• Notify the Burnet County Sheriff be-
Burning see Page 2



Martelle Luedecke/Luedecke Photography

Austin Cowan (30) is the first to get to the runner for the Mustangs. Marble Falls will kickoff at 7:30 p.m. Friday versus Brownwood. See story about the high school football matchup on page 14.

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