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Growing city

FROM H-E-B TO
HOBBY LOBBY

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

SPORTS

Sabinal softball team
**defeated after long
winning season**
with 29-4 record

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SAFE GRADUATION

Fundraising for safe
Project Graduation
event continuing
until last minute

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Uvalde Leader-News

LOCALLY OWNED INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER—SINCE 1879 A LEADER IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

ONE SECTION, 16 PAGES

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018

VOL. 135 NO. 9 \$1.00

UHS, UT-Austin plan college boost

JENNIFER FRY
STAFF WRITER

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District plans to implement a new approach to dual credit via a partnership with the University of Texas at Austin. Dubbed dual enroll-

ment, OnRamps pairs a Uvalde High School faculty member with a university professor to offer students academically rigorous, college-level coursework. Monday, at the regular monthly meeting of the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees,

OnRamps program outreach coordinator Jennifer Mullins presented an overview of the program. UCISD administration plans to implement the program for the 2018-2019 school year. Mullins said the program seeks to create an opportunity for real college experi-

ences with the stability of not having to move away for college. Mullins pointed out that students who have taken a dual credit course are twice as likely not just to attend college but to finish a degree within six years—regardless of whether the student passes the course.

“If they just take the class, we can double their chances,” Mullins said. “We don’t want your top 10 percent,” she continued. “We want your top 70 percent—the ones who you know [that] if they just challenged themselves they will do incredible.” One difference between

the OnRamps program and other dual-credit offerings is the need for a placement exam such as the Texas Success Initiative exam. With OnRamps, no prior exam is needed. “We want this to be open to all of our students,”

PLEASE SEE **CREDIT**, PAGE 14

Summary judgement sought in EAA lawsuit

CRAIG GARNETT
PUBLISHER

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed last January against the Edwards Aquifer Authority filed a motion for summary judgement Tuesday, asking the court to declare that rules changed last year by the EAA board of directors are “void and invalid.” “Plaintiffs challenge the validity of certain EAA rules that violate the unambiguous mandate of the EAA to protect agricultural interests by ensuring that half of the irrigation right granted in an initial regular permit (‘IRP’) must be used in the manner and location for which it was originally issued,” reads

the motion filed in 38th Judicial District Court. That restriction is spelled out in Section 1.34 of the enabling legislation SB 1477, which is also cited in the motion: “A permit holder may lease permitted water rights, but a holder of a permit for irrigation may not lease more than 50 percent of the irrigation rights initially permitted. The user’s remaining water rights must be used in accordance with the original permit and must pass with transfer of the irrigated land.” Uvalde officials have argued that if the last acre foot is sold off, the land loses not only tax value but

PLEASE SEE **EAA**, PAGE 14

CHDI celebrates 35 years of care

JENNIFER FRY
STAFF WRITER

Community Health Development, Inc. is celebrating its 35th year of operation this May. Founded in 1983, the organization opened its doors to the public in June of 1984 under the name Uvalde County Clinic, Inc. The name changed to its current moniker in 2000 after the leaders of the organization realized

that its service area was much broader than Uvalde County alone. “We actually changed its name because we started to receive patients from as far away as Mountain Home,” said CHDI chief executive officer Rachel Gonzales-Hanson. “They could afford gas, but not access to a doctor.” Gonzales-Hanson has been the CEO almost since

PLEASE SEE **HEALTHY**, PAGE 16



JENNIFER FRY/LEADER-NEWS

Uvalde High School senior Justin Diaz high-fives a sixth-grader in a hallway at Flores Elementary to celebrate finishing high school. The Uvalde High School senior class walked the halls of Flores on Monday as part of the senior parade.

Six area schools hosting graduation events tomorrow

Uvalde, Knippa, Sabinal, Nueces Canyon, Brackettville and Leahey high schools will recognize graduating high school seniors in commencement events set tomorrow. Graduation ceremonies for La Pryor and Utopia high schools are set June 1 and June 2, respectively. Uvalde High School valedictorian Ana Laura Aviles and salutatorian Matthew R. Williams

will lead the school’s 277-person class of 2018. Aviles is the daughter of Patsy and John Aviles. Williams is the son of Andrea and Patrick Williams. Graduation ceremonies will be conducted beginning at 7 p.m. at the Uvalde Honey Bowl. U.S. Congressman Will Hurd, who represents Uvalde County as part of his constituency within the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, will be

the guest speaker. Knippa School valedictorian Jessica Dong and salutatorian Ryan Cox lead their 20-person graduating class. Dong is the daughter of Connie and Xuejun Dong. Cox is the son of Drs. Virginia Sosa and Steve Cox. The school’s commencement ceremony is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Vulcan Center at

PLEASE SEE **SENIORS**, PAGE 16

Eight apply for UCISD police post

District may hire chief on Tuesday

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District is set to meet Tuesday at noon to discuss the hiring of a qualified school district police chief. As of yesterday, the district has received eight applications. While there’s not yet a definite timeline in place for the formation of the school district police department, the community is invited to meet the new UCISD police chief June 6 at the Benson Cafeteria. The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. At the time of writing, the expected start date for this position, according to the UCISD website, is July. At the April 16 meeting for UCISD board of trustees, a measure was enacted to allow for the addition of a district police chief’s salary to the existing administrative salary schedule. According to the board book from that meeting, the starting pay for the full-time position would be \$63,718 annually. Hiring a district police chief would be the first step in assembling a small police force for the purpose of protecting students, faculty, and administration across the district. The chief would determine the strength of force needed.

PLEASE SEE **POLICING**, PAGE 14

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AREA DEATHS|PAGE 5

Kenton Cox
Lurline Thompson
Julia R. Villasana

2018 TO DATE2.45
2017 SAME PERIOD10.81
2016 SAME PERIOD8.99
114 YEAR AVERAGE8.43
EDWARDS AQUIFER871.0
PREVIOUS LEVEL871.2
2017 SAME PERIOD876.2



OBSERVED			INSIDE
HIGH	LOW	RAIN	CLASSIFIEDS 18-21
FRI 95	67	0.00	LIFESTYLES 4-5
SAT 91	72	0.10	SPORTS 10-11
SUN 81	65	0.62	CROSSWORD 2
MON 84	65	0.00	
TUES 88	74	0.00	NUECES CANYON 12

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Full time ranch hand needed. Must be able to work weekends, have reliable transportation and able to lift 50lbs. Apply in person Uvalde Vet Clinic, 1804 N. Milam St.

Resort properties in Concan need a full-time maintenance person for a seasonal job. Must have references and own transportation. Interview required. Call 830-232-5758.

River Oaks Resort in Concan is looking for a full time maintenance/yard person for the summer starting immediately, \$10-\$11/hour based on experience. Must be dependable and have drivers license. Apply in person 1/2 mile down CR 348.

J&J Excavating & Materials is looking for a loader operator with 2+ years of MSHA/Mining experience in Uvalde, TX. Pay will be hourly based on experience, working 40-70 hours Monday-Saturday. Please call J&J Office at 830-374-5262 for application.

Looking for end dump driver. Preferably with end dump experience and lives in Uvalde area. Plenty of work Monday-Friday. Call me at 210-381-2799.

St. Philip's Episcopal School is hiring a 2nd-4th grade Math teacher and a 2nd-4th grade Science/Social Studies teacher. Experience preferred. Bachelor's Degree and Texas Teacher Certification required. Apply in person at 343 N. Getty St., Uvalde or email resume to principal@spesuvalde.org

Sanders in Knippa is accepting applications for full time operations and inventory coordinator. Must be dependable, team oriented, hardworking, and willing to work extended hours. CDL and experience in agriculture preferred but not required. Competitive pay and great benefits. Apply in person at 175 Avenue E, Knippa, TX 78870.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 2018-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UVALDE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.12 ITINERANT AND TRANSIENT VENDORS, SOLICITORS, MOBILE FOOD VENDORS OF THE UVALDE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY CLAUSES; PROVIDING OPEN MEETINGS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS. To view Ordinance 2018-07 in its entirety please go to the City of Uvalde's website <http://www.uvaldetx.gov> PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON MAY 22, 2018

Don McLaughlin, Jr., Mayor

Attest:
Sorayda A. Sanchez,
City Secretary

AA
2420 E. Main Suite A
Uvalde, Tx
(West of Jack's Steak House)
Tuesday to Friday
7:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 pm
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Judith G. 830-486-2150

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408 Ft. Clark Rd.
Call 591-0235
Utopia
Al-Anon & AA
Thurs. 8 pm
Methodist Church

NOTICE OF FILING
On May 18, 2018, Douglas P. Bennett filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission on FCC Form 314 for consent to assign the construction permit for KDVB(FM), Batesville, TX, 97.9 MHz, to Carlos Lopez.

A copy of the application and related materials are available for public inspection at the Zavala County Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 office, 260 FM 117, Batesville, TX, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Citation by Publication
Order Granting Motion for Substituted Service, in the 38th Judicial District, NO 2018-03-32103-CV: On April 27, 2018 the Court considered Plaintiff's Motion for Substituted Service on Respondent, GOLDOME CREDIT. The Court finds that as to Respondent, Vanessa Galvan: 1. The facts set forth in the attached motion are accepted as true and incorporated herein as if set forth at length. 2. The manner of service ordered herein will be reasonably effective in giving Respondent, GOLDOME CREDIT, notice of the suit. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that service of citation may be made on Respondent, GOLDOME CREDIT, by Citation by Publication through publication in the Uvalde Leader News To: GOLDOME CREDIT. Respondent Greetings: You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION TO TRY TITLE at or before ten o'clock a.m. the Monday next after the expiration of forty two days after the issuance of this citation the same being the 18th day of June, A.D. 2018., before the Honorable District Court; of Uvalde County, Texas at the Court House of said County in Uvalde, Texas. Said Petitioner's PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION TO TRY TITLE was filed in said court on the 27th day of March, 2018, in this case, numbered 2018-03-32103-CV on the docket of said court, and styled.
Rudy Lopez Jr. and Adelaida Lopez and Adelaida Lopez versus Goldome Credit
WITNESS MY HAND this 8th Day in May 2018.
/s/Charles J. Mendeke, Sheriff Uvalde County, Texas
By:/s/Alfredo Mares
By:Alfredo Mares, Deputy

CREDIT: Teachers will be trained by UT faculty, staff

FROM PAGE 1

Mullins said. “Any student, if they want to take a college class, can take it with us.”

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Students enrolled in the OnRamps program have not one but two teachers, their on-campus high school teacher and a college professor who teaches through distance learning. There are no textbooks, as all materials can be accessed online.

Because there are two teachers, there are two grades and two separate transcripts, one for high school and the other for college. The college credit earned in the program is transferable to any public university in the state.

The high school instructor grades the work based on local standards, while the college professor grades based on the rigors of university-level work – only counting three to six assignments a semester instead of the 30 to 40 which may be counted in high school. Students quickly learn that they do not have as many opportunities in college

to earn good grades. Before a college transcript is finalized, students have the opportunity to accept or reject the grade that was earned in the course. The reason behind this, Mullins pointed out, is to give students a safe place to take a chance. If they do not do well in the college-level portion of the course, administrators of the program do not want that to negatively affect a student's future chances and goals.

“It's giving them an opportunity to be successful,” Mullins said. “We have literally changed mindsets,” she continued. “They're taking courses. They're passing their coursework. And this is changing their lives.”

Not only does the program offer the chance to take a risk, it is also academically challenging. “We are not a sit-and-get model,” Mullins said. “We engage, we dig deep – we want them [students] to engage with each other.” Speaking of members of Student Voices who met with UCISD Superintendent Jeanette Ball and

board members that day, Ball noted, “They like this challenge.”

BENEFITS TO TEACHERS

In order to teach the dual-enrollment classes, high school teachers need not to have earned a master's degree themselves. Instead, they will be trained by university faculty and staff. High school teachers who participate in the program have an opportunity to earn up to 82 hours in professional learning just in the first year. “This is what makes our program,” Mullins said. “A program cannot move forward without leadership. High school teachers bring capacity to their campuses.”

CLASSES OFFERED

At the meeting, the school board approved several new courses for the upcoming school year, all of which would be offered through the OnRamps program. They are rhetoric and writing, U.S. history, pre-calculus, and a computer science course that counts as a foreign-language credit because it includes the language of coding.

POLICING: UCISD trustees will meet again Tuesday

FROM PAGE 1

The chief would be a district employee, independent of the city police. Qualifications for the

position include a bachelor's degree in either law enforcement, sociology, education or police science; master peace officer certification; valid Texas

driver license; strong interpersonal and organizational skills; and a minimum of five years' experience directing law enforcement.

EAA: Suit continues with complaints from both sides

FROM PAGE 1

also the productive value associated with agriculture and its attendant industries such as equipment, fertilizer and fuel sales. Edwards Aquifer Authority general manager Roland Ruiz said in an interview Monday that the rules allowing base irrigation groundwater (BIG) to be converted to non-restricted water have been on the books for 17 years.

The genesis for the present controversy appears to come largely from development over the aquifer, primarily in Bexar and eastern Medina counties where housing developments, industrial parks and retail space have encroached on farmland.

According to Ruiz, irrigators whose land is no longer viable for farming have sought an exemption from the EAA to convert BIG to a non-restricted status in order to claim the full value of their property.

“These are property rights that landowners own and have the right to move from one area to another,” Ruiz said. “As far as conversion of water rights, that is a landowner coming to us and saying, ‘I can longer use the water and want to free it up.’”

In response to plaintiff's charges that the rule changes made last December made it easier for landowners to lease or sell BIG, Ruiz said the new rules are actually “a bit more restrictive and not as nebulous.”

He did acknowledge that the timeline for farmland not to have been irrigated was shortened from five

to three years but added that the new rules shored up the responsibility of the landowner to show by affidavit that the land can no longer be farmed. Ruiz also said that the conversion of base water has not impacted Uvalde County in a meaningful way, citing the approval of three applications in the last 17 years that totaled 117 acre feet out of the 64,000 acre feet permitted in the county.

UCUWCD attorney Celina Romero asserted that the EAA has relaxed the rules regarding the conversion of BIG to unrestricted water, which could be sold to entities outside the area.

“We think there is a real potential of an interest in permanently sending water outside the county,” Romero said. “The right time to assert Uvalde County water protections is now before there is a crisis.”

In addition to the original petitioners, the city of Uvalde and Uvalde County are also participating in the suit that asked the court to permanently enjoin the EAA from taking future actions under the rules that are being challenged.

Romero added that the EAA has continued to approve applications for water transfers since the suit was filed, another reason they are asking the court to act quickly.

Last week plaintiffs amended the lawsuit against the EAA to allow the transfer of water rights among farmers within Uvalde County.

“Local temporary farm-to-farm water transfers promote economic development within the county, not harm it. Removing

these causes of action from the suit allows us to fully focus on the core issue which harms the region,” said Doug Caroom, lead attorney for the city and county. Ruiz also applauded the action, saying that it was “a good move for farming interests across the region.”

For the plaintiffs, as is evidenced in the motion for summary judgement, the crux of the case is that the EAA lacked the authority to alter rules within legislation that was created by the Texas Legislature.

Ruiz acknowledged that opinion as being pivotal in the case and expressed the sentiment that it will be decided by the courts or the Texas Legislature.

“Very likely it will be resolved by the legislature. That is why I say locally based solutions play better for everyone involved,” Ruiz said.

“We are open to having discussions and finding solutions together. I think we have demonstrated that in the past,” Ruiz added, citing work to maintain the city of Uvalde's J-27 test well.

“We want to work with the EAA as well. We have been trying to put in place a structure to do that and have not been successful with getting one in place that we are comfortable working under,” Romero said.

“Stakeholders and the citizens of Uvalde deserve and expect predictability,” said UCUWCD general manager Vic Hilderbran. “Regional development is in the balance, and the sooner the dispute is resolved, the better off all involved will be.”

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COOK POSITION AVAILABLE
The 38th Judicial District Community Corrections Facility in Uvalde, Texas has a position available for a Cook. The position is for alternating and split shift work beginning at 5:00 am and requires working on some weekends and holidays. Salary is \$21,735 annually with benefits such as health insurance, retirement and paid holidays. For more information contact Cindy Atkinson, Human Resources Officer, at 117 East Nopal Street in Uvalde, Texas or call 830/900-7715, Monday – Friday, 8 am-5 pm. Applications along with resume will be accepted until position is filled.

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