GROWTH Summit to focus on water

Wednesday event features officials on five panels addressing issues

By Lindsey Carnett The Herald-Zeitung

For locals curious about what's going on with water in and around New Braunfels, the third Hill Country Water Summit will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Featuring an array of elected and appointed public officials across five different panels, the summit is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature panelists such as New Braunfels Utilities Chief Executive Officer Ian Taylor, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Toby Baker and District 73 State Rep. Kyle Biedermann.

The summit will focus on issues such as future water needs for the area and regional water supply solutions and will look at what local legislators are doing to protect water and the environment.

"I saw a need for a water summit before each legislative session to identify what the major water issues are for the Hill Country," said Ron Walton, who holds the District 9 seat on the Edwards Aquifer Authority board of directors.

Walton, a former geologist who spent his career working for federal agencies involved in national and international water issues, said upon his election, he saw a need to look at the Hill Country's future water needs.

"We have one of the fastest-growing counties in the whole country, Comal County --and Guadalupe County is a very fast-growing coun-

Mexico

Shown are today and tomorrow's forecasted high / low temperatures

"We have one of the fastest-growing counties in the whole country, Comal County —and Guadalupe County is a very fast-growing county as well, so two of the top growth counties in the whole country are in this region. With growth comes a lot of water issues."

> Ron Walton Edwards Aquifer Authority board of directors

the whole country are in this region," Walton said. "With growth comes a lot of water issues."

Walton said the need to identify the important water issues in the area and to address them is what inspired him to organize the first Hill Country Water Summit.

"I went to my colleagues at the Water Science Research Center in San Antonio and asked for their advice on what we should do in the Hill Country to address our water issues," Walton said. "They advised me ... to have this type of summit and address the issues from grassroots up."

The summit is a public event, Walton said, meant to give the public a chance to ask questions and voice concerns.

"It's an opportunity to hear from all concerned citizens from the grass roots up," he said. "It's not from the top down, it's from the bottom up. There will be time for questions with every panel, and there are five panels."

The first two panels will be on the growth along the Interstate 35 corridor and future water needs and on regional water supply solutions.

The third, fourth and fifth panels will be group focused, with the third panel focusing on the Tex-

focusing on the Trinity Aquifer and the fifth panel focusing on local legislators and what they are doing to solve water issues in the Hill Country.

Walton said the summit is important because of the area's rapid growth.

"Now, growth is great. We're all in favor of people having an opportunity to live the good life here, but we want to keep it that way," Walton said. "And these kind of issues are what are most important."

Tickets for the summit cost \$25, and include a barbecue lunch. Tickets can be purchased at www. guadalupebasincoalition. org. The event is being sponsored by the Guadalupe Basin Coalition and will be take place at the New Braunfels Civic/ Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Ave.

CRIME

Man arrested after found inside vehicle

By Dalondo Moultrie The Herald-Zeitung

Officers investigating a report of a possibly stolen vehicle awoke and arrested a man inside the automobile suspected also of possessing drugs Friday morning in New Braunfels.

The incident began when police, responding to the report at about 10:25 a.m. Friday at an apartment complex in the 2200 block of Goodwin Lane, found a man inside the vehicle, said David Ferguson, New Braunfels Police Department communications coordinator.

"Officers arrived and found the male occupant

asleep inside the vehicle," Ferguson said. "It was confirmed that the vehicle was stolen out of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Officers awakened the male inside and took him into custody."

Police smelled marijuana in the car, a silver Mustang, and on the man's person, the police spokesman said. Officers searched the man and the vehicle and found several bags of marijuana inside a pouch, as well as a small amount of methamphetamine, a small amount of heroin and a vape pen containing a substance that tested positive for a cannabis-related drug, Ferguson said.

Officers arrested 29-yearold Munsel Jamal Calhoun of Lubbock, took him to the Comal County Jail and charged him with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; possession of between 4 ounces and 5 pounds of marijuana; possession of less than 1 gram of a penalty group 1 controlled substance; possession of between 1 gram and 4 grams of a penalty group 1 controlled substance; and possession of less than 1 gram of a penalty group 2 controlled substance.

A jail spokeswoman said Monday afternoon that Calhoun remained held under bonds totaling \$27,000.

Local business reports six dirt bikes missing

By Dalondo Moultrie The Herald-Zeitung

A group of individuals broke into a New Braunfels business Saturday morning and hauled off more than \$43,000 worth of dirt bikes, police said.

The incident was captured on security surveillance video, which recorded a decent image of at least one of the suspects. Police are investigating, said David Ferguson, New Braunfels Police Department communications coordinator.

"They took six dirt bikes," he said. The heist "totaled just more than \$43,000 in stolen property."

Investigators think the crime happened at about 2:20 a.m. Saturday in the 1900 block of Interstate 35 North at Woods Cycle Country. The preliminary investigation seems to point to the crew driving a U-Haul box truck up to the front of the building, Ferguson said.

They backed the truck to the front of the business

and apparently used rocks to break a big glass window, he said.

"Once the glass is broken, four males entered the business," Ferguson said.

Police are working under the idea that the males rolled the bikes into the back of the truck and then drove away.

Employees arrived at the business for work Saturday, found the shattered window and discovered the three Yamaha, two Kawasaki and one Suzuki dirt bike missing, Ferguson said.

DECEMBER 4

TUESDAY EVENING

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Kansas City