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THIS EDITION



Read all about the **175th Grand Finale Weekend** planned activities ▶ **A8-9**

Family remembers longtime **Gillespie County librarian** MacWithey ▶ **A3**

CVB looks ahead to **National Travel and Tourism Week** ▶ **A6**

Mike Barr writes of **Ostrow Hotel** owner who loved Fredericksburg ▶ **D5**

Save dollars inside with the **Brand Saver** coupon booklet ▶ **INSIDE**

WEATHER

April 19-25, 2022

Rainfall for this week.....	1.21
Rainfall for April	1.31
Rainfall for 2022.....	2.88
Normal for Date.....	7.76
Same Date Last Year.....	3.13
Low — April 19.....	52
High — April 22,23.....	86

	High	Low	Rain
Tuesday	81	52	.07
Wednesday	80	63	
Thursday	83	69	
Friday	86	68	
Saturday	86	67	
Sunday	84	68	.02
Monday	84	59	1.12
Total Rain			1.21

Burn ban is on for Gillespie County. Use caution and call 830-997-5603 for information.

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INSIDE: Quarterly Rock & Vine magazine breaks out the picnic blankets for spring



SPORTS: Billie boys, girls golf teams head to state tournament ▶ **B1**



ELECTIONS

Administrator clears election confusion

City, Constitutional Amendment, FISD elections underway

By Samuel Sutton
Standard-Radio Post editor

Taking into account the trio of elections underway, local officials want to clarify what races are happening and in which ones voters could cast ballots.

Early voting is currently underway for a Constitutional Amendment election, the Fredericksburg

Independent School District Board of Trustees race and bond election, and the City of Fredericksburg election.

Constitutional Amendment election

Since the Constitutional Amendment election is a state-wide election, all 20,686 voters in Gillespie County can participate

in it.

According to the Texas Secretary of State website, **Proposition Number 1** proposes an amendment authorizing the Texas Legislature to reduce the amount of a limitation on the total property tax amount that could be imposed for elementary and secondary public school purposes on the home residence of someone who is elderly or

disabled.

This would be done to reflect statutory reductions in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed on one's homestead from the previous year.

Proposition 2 proposes an increase in the amount of the residence homestead exemption from **ELECTIONS** ▶ **A4**

175TH ANNIVERSARY ART PROJECT



Nine bronze statues of mockingbirds, sculpted by local artist John Bennett, now perch at eight historic buildings along Main Street. Amy Beicker wrote the scavenger hunt-style book, "Main Street Mockingbirds." Here, Silver Wing and Willow can be found at Pioneer Memorial Library. — Standard-Radio Post/Brooke Nevins

Main Street Menagerie

Resident writer, artist collaborate for unique project for 175th finale and to 'bring kids back to Main Street'

By Brooke Nevins
Standard-Radio Post Reporter

The maxim that "the only constant in life is change" is one that Fredericksburg residents know full well.

Over decades, the purposes of Main Street's shopfronts have transitioned with the times. The street has retained its charm through the preservation of many historic buildings, but as these structures are repurposed, their original

history is unknown to many visitors and residents, alike.

But "Main Street Mockingbirds," a book set to release during Fredericksburg's 175th weekend celebration, offers people of all ages a way to explore the subtle details and history behind some of Main Street's most iconic buildings through a scavenger hunt-like experience.

The book, by Fredericksburg resident and mom, Amy Schwede Beicker, features

MOCKINGBIRDS ▶ **A15**

'Main Street Mockingbirds'

Book release party 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at Pioneer Museum. Profits from the book will support the Gillespie County Children's Foundation

GILLESPIE COUNTY

New Public Defender Office keeps five counties

Strocher, Schuch said office has boosted defense attorneys

By Brent Burgess
Standard-Radio Post reporter

Gillespie County Commissioners met on Monday to discuss amending the Hill Country Regional Public Defender Office Interlocal Agreement.

The Public Defender Office (PDO) is in its first year for Gillespie County and is funded by a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

The PDO exists to provide a network of attorneys available to clients who cannot afford to hire representation in both misdemeanor and felony cases.

Along with Gillespie County, the current PDO includes Kerr, Kendall, Bandera and Medina counties.

Kerr County currently serves as the fiscal agent for the agreement.

Following an Oversight Board meeting for the PDO last Friday, member counties were asked to approve Medina County as the new Fiscal Agent for the office.

Judge Mark Strocher and Commissioner Donnie Schuch attended as Gillespie County

COMMISSIONERS ▶ **A12**

THE WEEKEND

St. Joseph's Society sets Feast Day barbecue, festival this Sunday

Proceeds to go to preservation, scholarships, ministries

The Men of St. Joseph's Society invite the public to its Annual Feast Day Barbecue Celebration and Festival, to be held on Sunday, May 1, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the restored St. Joseph's Halle, 212 W. San Antonio St.

The group will be keeping with traditions of the past and serving up a pork barbecue dinner with all the trimmings and homemade desserts for guests.

Plates are "guaranteed to be one of the biggest plates of barbecue for the money that you will see at a benefit in the Hill Country," organizers said.

Songs from Fredericksburg's own Akkordion Club and ice-cold "German soda water" will be flowing from the tap.

Plates are \$9 each pre-sale and \$10 each, day of the dinner.

FEAST DAY ▶ **A13**



TAKIN' IT TO THE STREET

Participants in the 2022 Hill Country Memorial Wildflower Run 10k launch off the starting line in good spirits. 10k racers ran a route starting at Marktplatz, to part of Cherry Mountain Loop and back. Kaleb Dale, left, finished second in his division after Aaron Kolterjahn (to his left). Jackie Mancuso, right, placed third in her division. — Standard-Radio Post/Brent Burgess

Attention: All Students

HCM is offering back to school and camp physicals.

For more information visit

hillcountrymemorial.org/all-student-physicals



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MOCKINGBIRDS

Cont. from A1

tures a family of mockingbirds, a tuneful constant on the Texas landscape, that witnesses change beginning with the arrival of German settlers in 1846. Each of the nine birds tells the story of a different historical location of the early settlement, and, thanks to local sculptor John Bennett, can be found as intricate bronze sculptures attached to the corresponding building on Main Street.

Beicker, along with husband Clint and children Bliss, Bowen and Brooke, moved to Fredericksburg in 2015. After attending the Easter Fires in 2018, Beicker was inspired by the city's "great story worth sharing" but felt Fredericksburg needed more ways to involve children in that story.

"I felt like kids were being pushed out of Main Street, or there was less for them to do," Beicker said. "And I (thought), 'We've got to keep history and we got to keep kids on Main Street. I think I have an idea.'"

That scavenger-hunt idea came from a project in Greenville, South Carolina, where the Beickers lived before moving back to Texas. In an effort to bring more traffic to Greenville's main street, a high school student wrote "Mice on Main," a book that told stories of its buildings as young readers followed corresponding mice statues around park benches or sidewalks.

"We had a blast, we saw things we would have missed if we hadn't been walking down the street looking, noticing and taking the time," Beicker said. "Just going into a store, you miss so much of the art and the beauty that is right in front of you. And in (Fredericksburg's) case, the history that's right here."

Beginning the project

Beicker said she dove into the tedious project in the fall of 2018 with "no idea about writing or art or the process" or what she signed up for.

"But every little step, a little door kept opening and I learned something new," she said. "I was like, 'I'm going to try this.' And I feel like God just provided and opened the door and brought the right people."

Two of those people, Bennett and book illustrator Diana Godwin Schwede, Beicker's mother, joined the ranks in bringing the project to life.

Beicker said she carefully chose the featured buildings based on location, historical significance, age, original purpose or architectural interest. And after a flurry of calls to building owners and tenants and presentations and pitches to commissioners and other community boards over many months, Beicker secured permission to fix the small sculptures to or near each building in the book.

"It wasn't a hard sell," she said, "it just took time."

Each bird's name and appearance are an intentional nod to the original purpose of the eight locations readers can visit. Fiddle, who flitted around the 1908 general store that is now 330 Gallery on West Main Street, dons an apron and other materials found in a general store, while Ranger, wearing an admiral's bicorn hat, proudly commands from the Pacific War Museum in a nod to both Admiral Nimitz and his grandfather, who was a Texas Ranger.

Bennett said the project sounded "fascinating" when Beicker approached him and that because Schwede's illustrations were "so vivid and full of

expression," it was easy for him to conjure up each bird's composition.

"I always admire the creative spark to initiate an idea for that start, and that creativity is the hardest part for the artist," Bennett said. "So, the hard part for me had already been done."

He also said the project was a "jigsaw puzzle," as Beicker struggled to decide whether to write the story or obtain permission from building owners for the sculptures first. The story had to be written before Schwede could draw, but Bennett needed to use completed illustrations as his models.

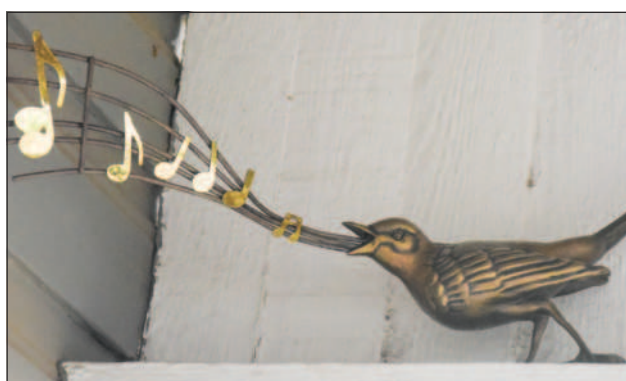
"Amy and I had to secure (exactly) where each sculpture was going to position at each location before I could even start," Bennett said. "Everything had to be nailed down before I even began to work from the drawing."

Bennett, who has resided in Fredericksburg with wife Cathy since 2006, was designated the Texas State Artist by the 81st Texas Legislature in 2010. From his home studio, the accomplished sculptor has quietly captured dynamic movement and liveliness in his work, much of which are western or historical figures. Driving north on State Highway 16, one can see his sculpture of a life-sized angel extending a stuffed animal to the children buried in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Bennett said the process, from agreeing to the project to receiving the nine bronze mockingbirds from the foundry, took over a year.

"I didn't sit down for eight hours a day and work on one," he said. "I would spend several weeks on a piece, easy."

The birds are his latest



"Main Street Mockingbirds" author Amy Beicker, left, and sculptor John Bennett install two mockingbirds at Pioneer Memorial Library. There are nine total birds at eight different historic sites on Main Street to find. At left is a singing Mockingbird nestled in the rafters of a building on the Pioneer Museum grounds. — Standard-Radio Post/Brooke Nevins

pieces to serve as a lasting tribute to Fredericksburg's history and artistic culture.

All nine birds are now installed on Main Street.

"I love the idea of being able to connect to the history of the town," Bennett said. "We know so many people that have grown up here and they welcomed us... (It is) valuable to be a part of the history in the community and be able to offer something that's lasting. This is a permanent thing. So that part's really exciting."

Schwede said her work is dedicated to her grandchildren, as well as to the families that have visited and grown with Fredericksburg through the years. She said a part of the book's beauty is how it was a generational effort, just like the town whose story it tells.

"A German community is ... very close, and this is Fredericksburg," Schwede said. "That's what's made Fredericksburg, and so the concept of family — not only blood family, but community — ties it all together."

As part of Fredericksburg's 175th Anniversary celebration, Beicker, Schwede and Bennett will host a book launch party from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Pioneer Museum on Saturday, May 7. Books will be available for purchase and can be signed.

"Main Street Mockingbirds" will be available to purchase for \$18.99 at places like Pioneer Museum, Gästehaus Schmidt, The Sweet Lily, Gallery 330, Der Küchen Laden, Liebeskind and Fredericksburg Natural Baby. More retailers will be announced in May.

All profits from the book will go to support the Gillespie County Children's Foundation.

Beicker said she is "grateful, humble and a little bit awestruck" that she could play a part in creating a lasting way for families to delight in the details of life.

"I loved that we made it by the 175th and that it's on Mother's Day weekend for the release," Beicker said. "I feel like God didn't have to do that. It's just the sweet little things and he (says), 'I'm in the details, and I care.'"

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