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Top of the Hill Country

Volume 131 - Number 5
January 31, 2024
Published Since 1893

County commissioners, county auditor review on purchasing process

Nathan Diebenow
EDITOR

A month into the new fiscal year, the Bosque County auditor and his assistant recommended that all county offices temporarily pause issuing new purchase orders.

Bosque County Auditor Jesse Jobs and assistant Polly Lail presented their concerns about the county's requisitions during the Bosque County Commissioners Court's meeting on Monday, November 20.

The two public employees noted that due to not following the county's policy on purchases, some county offices were trending towards budget deficits through over-spending.

During their presentation, Jobs and Lail speculated that several offices had probably under-budgeted for this fiscal year.

Jobs stated that there were three issues with the purchasing practices: timely submissions to the auditor's office to review, stacking invoices on already opened purchase orders, and not closing out blanket purchase orders in a timely fashion.

Bosque County Judge Cindy Vanlandingham said she appreciated Jobs and Lail for coming forward with their concerns.

Via email, Jobs provided The Clifton Record / Meridian Tribune with an update on efforts to prevent the county departments from incurring a budget

deficit.

Jobs said that county auditor's office had taken the following steps:

"The auditor's office will provide quarterly projections to county departments that hold blanket Purchase Orders (Pos) in order to mitigate a budget deficit at fiscal year-end (FYE).

"Conversations are being held with the respective county departments in order for the department to reign in purchasing of supplies and/or materials.

"All avenues are being explored with the vendors in order to mitigate price increases where applicable.

"As before, strict adherence to the County's purchasing policy is being enforced."

Jail status update

Bosque County Sheriff Trace Hendricks gave an update on the Bosque County jail's population figures.

Line-item transfers

The court approved two line-item transfers requested by the Bosque County Sheriff's Office.

The sum of \$18,000 was moved to software maintenance from five funds: investigations (\$1,500), training (\$2,000), contingencies (\$1,000), vehicle repair (\$2,500), and capital outlay (\$11,000).

The funds went toward covering the Kologik invoice for the remainder of COPsync that was left out of the fiscal

See **Court** page 4

FREEDOM TO TEAM UP



Courtesy Photo By Water Well Finders

The Austin Technology Incubator recently accepted Teisha and Andrew Vandekop of Well Water Finders (from left) to commercialize their tech that determines the specs of groundwater down to 5,000 feet within minutes.

Water Well Finders, ATI team up for business development

Local report
WELL WATER FINDERS

Well Water Finders in Meridian has recently been selected as a portfolio member of Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) out of The University of Texas at Austin.

"ATI supports

innovators who are working hard towards helping to solve our world's most pressing issues," Becky Taylor, Interim Executive Director of Austin Technology Incubator, said.

She continued, "Developing a clean and sustainable water

supply is one of ATI's core missions and we look forward to helping the Well Water Finders commercialize their deep tech solution."

WWF is a family-owned company that assists landowners, developers, realtors, and water well drillers around Texas determine groundwater

levels at their properties.

"Now, with the help of ATI, our vision is to create the 'Well Water Finder' that will be made available for sale and rental worldwide," WWF founders Andrew and Teisha Vandekop said.

See **Water** page 10



Courtesy Photo By BCMA

Charlie McCain is learning to read music, but played by ear here on the keyboard at the Bosque Civic Music Association's annual meeting at the Bosque Arts Center in Clifton on Thursday, January 25.

Music makers

BCMA holds annual meeting, welcomes new officers

Bryan Davis
BCMA

The annual membership meeting of the Bosque Civic Music Association was held on Thursday evening, January 25, in the atrium of the Bosque Arts Center.

A crowd of all ages was in attendance and enjoyed a wonderful program of entertainment featuring several young musicians.

BCMA President Kathy Harr recapped an eventful year for the group and briefed the audience on upcoming plans for 2024.

Business included the approval of several current BCMA board members and election of a

See **Music** page 10

Laguna Park's mobile food pantry open this Saturday

Local Report
LAGUNA PARK FOOD PANTRY

The Laguna Park Mobile Food Pantry will be open at the Wings of Faith Christian Fellowship Church in Laguna Park this Saturday, February 3, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., or until supplies

run out.

The food pantry's volunteers will continue to register folks into the food distribution program.

"If you haven't come and registered, you can register the day of distribution," Pam Bridges, food pantry

See **Food** page 4



Courtesy Photo By Scouts BSA Troop 376G

One of the Troop 376G members scaled the climbing wall at Lost Pines Scout Reservation in 2023.

Scouts BSA Troop 376G recaps 2023

Christy Grelle
ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER
TROOP 376G

BSA Troop 376G, a troop for girls ages 11-17, had a great first year!

The troop was chartered on April 29, 2023, and hit the ground running.

The mission of BSA is: "To prepare young people to make ethical moral

choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

There are several methods by which Scouts

See **Scouts** page 7

**Senior Living Special
Section is coming
February 28, 2024**

Our golden years come with both unique adventures as well as challenges. In this issue we will look into the different aspects of senior living including volunteer opportunities, staying social, aging in place and many other topics of interest to this demographic.

Call Katie Britain
at 254-675-3336
to reserve your space in this relevant section.



Music

From page 1

new member and officers.

Officers include Harr, president; Marsha Brown, vice-president; Paige Bizzell, secretary; and Bryan Davis, financial secretary and BAC representative. At-large members include Punky Penberthy and Linda Bracken who are being joined by Cleon Flanagan. Longtime board member Jan Kieta is stepping down after many years of dedicated service to the BCMA.

Harr reminded the audience of the many efforts of the BCMA throughout the community and beyond, including two annual concerts by the Bosque Chorale, awarding of several high school scholarships, summer music camps for children, the Steve Watson Piano Lab which currently has eight students, the annual Showcase for Young Musicians, and several special presentations throughout the year.

The BCMA is a vital branch of the Bosque Arts Center and is proud to be an active presence in the community, bringing joy and enlightenment to music lovers of all ages.

Charter BCMA member Donna Stevens brought a delightful program of talented young music students to entertain those gathered. They included the Lovell family consisting of mother Heather Lovell on keyboards, and children Anna, Eli and Gideon on violin; Keoni Dolida on keyboard; and Charlie McCain on keyboard.

Please continue to follow our Facebook page for upcoming events presented by the BCMA.



Photo Courtesy by Well Water Finds, ATI

Well Water Finders of Meridian was recently accepted as a portfolio member of Austin Technology Incubator. Becky Taylor, Interim Executive Director of Austin Technology Indubator, (center) welcomed Andrew and Teisha Vandekop of Well Water Finders to the mentorship program that will assist the entrepreneurs on their quest to commercialize their technology that locates depth and volume of groundwater down to 5,000 feet within minutes.

Water

From page 1

The Well Water Finders' patented technology locates depth and volume of groundwater down to 5,000 feet in minutes.

Ideal for real estate development, food production, ranching and municipal supply, WWF aims to manufacture portable units that can be used to determine groundwater levels for two important applications: extraction through water well drilling; and ideal placement for aquifer recharge zones to collect harvested rainfall, returning water back to the earth.

Austin Technology Incubator – the deep tech incubator at The University of Texas at Austin – is the longest active technology incubator in the United States and has helped numerous entrepreneurs

effectively commercialize their breakthrough innovations and compete in the global marketplace.

“Andrew and I are so grateful to the team of mentors who will help us share our groundwater data collection system with the world,” said Teisha Vandekop, WWF’s COO, said.

Andrew Vandekop, the inventor of the Well Water Finders system, added, “It is so great that UT has a program to allow some of its brilliant engineers and researchers to assist start-up entrepreneurs.”

Well Water Finders is a member of the Texas Groundwater Association and the Meridian, Texas Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the Well Water Finders, visit https://wellwaterfinders.com/.

For more information about Austin Technology Incubator, visit https://ati.utexas.edu/.



Photo Courtesy by Bosque Civic Music Association

The talented Lovell family perform during the annual BCMA's annual meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the Bosque Arts Center. The family includes (from left) Anna, Eli, Gideon on violin and mother Heather Lovell on keyboard.



Photo Courtesy by Bosque Civic Music Association

Longtime supporters Don and Joan Theode (left and right) visit with BCMA Vice-President Marsha Brown (center) during the annual BCMA member meeting at the Bosque Arts Center on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

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BOSQUE COUNTY Best of 2023. Is your business looking to make an impression on Bosque County voters in our upcoming Best of Bosque County contest that starts on January 28, 2024? Give Katie Britain a call at 254-675-3336 to reserve your digital offering on the actual ballot. Three packages to choose from. Three different levels of ads. HURRY, BEFORE YOUR SPOT OF CHOICE IS GONE. Our Audiences are your Customers.

SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. Help where it's needed most. SupportDisasterRelief.org. ad icon.

IT'S COMING! BOSQUE COUNTY Best of 2023. Nominating and voting will begin on Wednesday, January 28, 2024 and end on Wednesday, February 28th. We will be announcing the winners in a special section on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 that will run in both The Clifton Record and Meridian Tribune. Once the contest opens, go to www.BosqueCountyToday.com to vote for your favorite. Categories include Food & Drink, Professional Services, Retail and Travel and Entertainment.