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NEW BRAUNFELS Herald-Zeitung

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Shane Wolf (left) and Stacy Thigpen of Paddle TX pose for a photo at Landa Park on June 5, 2024. BLAINE YOUNG | Herald-Zeitung

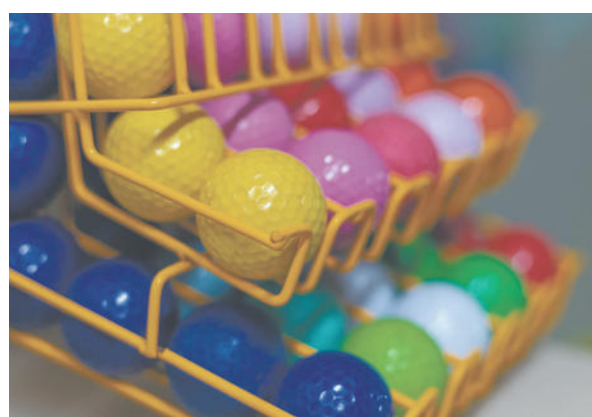
Putt, paddle and play

Operation of boats, mini golf course at Landa Park turned over to third party

By Hannah Thompson
The Herald-Zeitung

Since Saturday, New Braunfels residents Shane Wolf, Nicole Wolf and Stacy Thigpen of Paddle TX have taken over operations of Landa Park's miniature golf course and paddle boats.

"We've been blown away by the response we had, just from this little bit of social media press that was created by the city," Thigpen said. "Sunday, I had four generations of New Braunfels people. ... I am a native Texan from South Texas, but to be here and watch that with what's changed in our state and in our city, that makes you feel real good."



Golf balls are displayed at Landa Park Mini Golf on June 5, 2024. BLAINE YOUNG | Herald-Zeitung

During the March 19 New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, Assistant City Manager Jared Werner touched on the advantages of using a third-party operator.

Werner said a third party could expand the

availability of the two operations, help with staffing and prove to be fiscally beneficial to the general fund.

While the new operators have only been in charge for less than a week, some of those predicted benefits have al-

ready been realized.

The hours of operation have expanded to begin at 10 a.m. and last until 8 p.m. — with times as late as 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Shane Wolf said staffing was a hurdle faced by the city that Paddle TX knew it could overcome.

He said it was a matter of getting a feel of the mini golf course and paddle boats in order to make significant improvements.

"The big thing that will probably happen at first is a bunch of maintenance; just over a series of time, you'll probably be seeing some painting, maybe a

See PADDLE, page 3

NEW BRAUNFELS

Potential changes to house move permit process sent to council

By Hannah Thompson
The Herald-Zeitung

As the saying goes, you can't take it with you — unless someone happens to be talking about a historical home.

After all, transporting a building across the city is still very much a possibility.

The process for obtaining house move permits was discussed during Tuesday's New Braunfels Planning Commission meeting.

Kate Totman, city of New Braunfels histor-

ic preservation officer, presented an ordinance amendment to the historical preservation section of the city code regarding alteration certificates required for demolition.

According to Totman, city staff review house move permits the same way they review demolition permits, which includes evaluating the structure using landmark criteria.

"We do this because

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NEW BRAUNFELS

EdenHill, Project MEND launch donation depot for medical equipment

By Erica Wilson
The Herald-Zeitung

EdenHill Communities will soon serve as a medical equipment donation depot for Comal County in partnership with the San Antonio-based non-profit Project MEND, also known as the "Medical Equipment Network for those with Disabilities."

For more than 30 years, Project MEND has provided professionally refurbished and sanitized medi-

cal equipment to people in need. It currently serves 45 counties including Bexar and Comal.

In 2023, Project MEND received a grant from the McKenna Foundation to help increase the number of individuals served in Comal County.

Project MEND staff connected with EdenHill while looking for an easier and better way to meet the

See MEDICAL, page 9

NEW BRAUNFELS

NB veterinarian offers tips for identifying, treating heatstroke in dogs

By Erica Wilson
The Herald-Zeitung

As the summer heat hits New Braunfels, pet owners are becoming more conscious of heatstroke signs in their dogs.

Charlotte Dawson, medical director for Chisholm Trail Veterinary Clinic of New Braunfels, shared some tips and signs to watch out for if a pet owner suspects their dog is overheated.

One of the most common signs includes excessive panting and drooling, she said. The animal's gums will also turn red as they become inflamed. The dog may experience symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea.

People should bring their dog

to the vet if the excessive panting and drooling does not begin to subside after a five- or 10-minute period, Dawson said.

"If they are not starting to improve within five, 10 minutes of being in shade and being cooler, then I would be thinking they're starting to really overheat and going to more of that heatstroke scenario," she said.

If owners suspect heatstroke, Dawson does not advise them to throw their pets in an ice-cold shower.

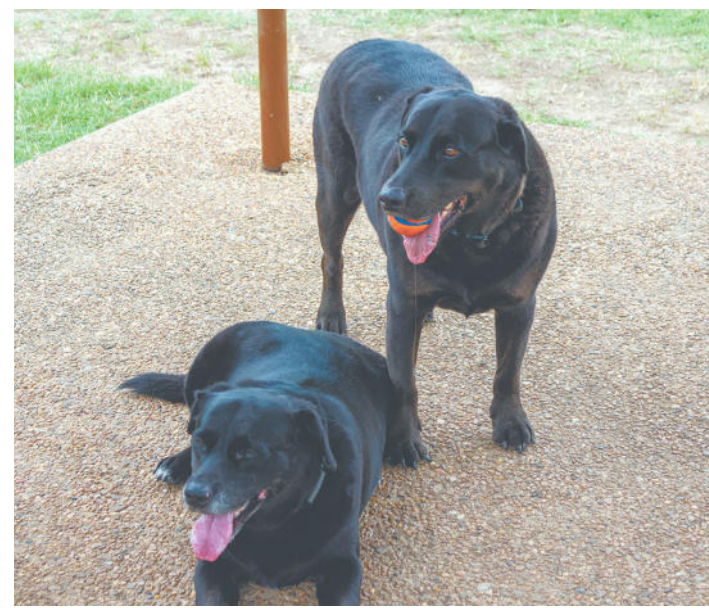
"Short-term, we think we're doing a good thing to help cool them down, but long-term they will actually get hotter because the body wants to warm up," Dawson said.

Some ways that staff at Chisholm Trail treat overheated dogs include giving them IV fluids to cool them down naturally, or gently blowing cold air over them. Concern arises when a dog's temperature reaches about 103 or 104, and once a dog's temperature reaches 105, the risks include possible organ shutdown, Dawson said.

There are several factors that contribute to certain dogs or breeds being more susceptible to suffering from heatstroke, Dawson said.

For example, brachycephalic, or short-nosed, dog breeds are more at risk.

See HEATSTROKE, page 9



Dogs enjoy playtime at Puppy Playland Dog Park on June 5, 2024. ERICA WILSON | Herald-Zeitung

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MEDICAL

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needs of those in the New Braunfels area. Now, locals will have a more convenient location to donate medical equipment.

Some of the most frequently-needed items include wheelchairs, rollator walkers, tub transfer benches, power wheelchairs and home hospital beds.

Project MEND will collect medical equipment from EdenHill and evaluate it for safe use, refurbish it and sanitize it to state standards. The nonprofit will then distribute the items to people who have requested them.

EdenHill and Project MEND are kicking off this initiative with a donation drive event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 at EdenHill. Individuals can bring medical equipment to donate that they no longer use, as well as enjoy food trucks, games and music.

Those looking to donate equipment any time following the kickoff donation drive can do so during EdenHill's business hours.

EdenHill Communities, a retirement/assisted living facility and nonprofit, has already been receiving medical equipment donations, whether it be through family members whose loved ones have passed or people who cannot use their equipment



EdenHill Communities is shown at 631 Lakeview Boulevard in New Braunfels. **H-Z file photo**

anymore, said director of marketing Terry Jackson.

"Now, this will enable us to put (medical equipment) back into circulation so that folks who need it will get it from a company who specializes in sanitizing and repurposing and getting it fitted right for the next person who needs it," Jackson said.

She emphasized the importance of collaborating with other nonprofits in providing community members with needed services.

"We have just been so grateful to the McKenna Foundation, to others in our community who help to support us as a nonprofit," Jack-

son said, "And any time we can collaborate with other nonprofits, it just feels like our mission continues to get enhanced by spreading it to the larger community."

Individuals in need of medical equipment can request items at projectmend.org or by phone. A caseworker will follow up to help complete the process. Those requesting items must have a prescription or letter of medical necessity from their physician.

Project MEND Chief Development Officer Kristy Walston said there is a large veteran population in the area that Project MEND works to accommodate, and

that the older adult American population is anticipated to increase greatly over the next few years.

"The need is just continuing to grow substantially every day," Walston said. "For the past two years, we've experienced a 21% increase in clients served, so we're scrambling to accommodate that need."

For more information about the event or ongoing donations, contact EdenHill Communities at 830-625-1324 or Project MEND at 210-223-6363.

EdenHill Communities is located at 631 Lakeview Boulevard in New Braunfels.

HEATSTROKE

Continued from page 1

"One, they have a very tiny nostril, so they really struggle to get a lot of air through the nose, so that forces them to have to pant," Dawson said. "And the shape of their head, they have a lot of excess skin at the back of their throat, which means it's really hard to get air into their airway to actually cool down and get a good oxygen supply as well. Unfortunately, that means they're going to pant heavier, which actually makes it worse, so it's really not good for those short-nosed breeds to be panting anyway."

Some of these short-nosed breeds include French bulldogs, Shih Tzus, Boston terriers and pugs.

Overweight pets are also at a higher risk of overheating, Dawson said.

She suggests that pets not be outside for periods of time longer than five or 10 minutes during excess heat.

Depending on the day's weather, pets should really only be outside to go to the bathroom in the middle of the day, Dawson said. She suggests walking pets around 5 or 6 a.m., or around 9 or 10 p.m.

If someone suspects a pet is at risk of developing heatstroke, Dawson urges owners not to hesitate to call a clinic. Severe complications from heatstroke can be fatal.

"It's not just the heat itself — it's what that heat does to the rest of the body," she said.

PERMIT

Continued from page 1

demolition and relocation, in some cases, can mean a permanent loss of a potentially-historic structure," Totman said. "Looking at the current code language, it's rather ambiguous when it does come to actually how housing permits are reviewed."

Totman said the only specified mention of moving buildings is within a single subsection, which maintains that the city historic preservation officer has to review the permits to decide if the building is of cultural, historical or architectural significance.

The proposed changes to the ordinance includes renaming the section from, "Alteration certificate required for demolition" to "Demolition and House Move Permit Review for Structures Not Historically Designed."

"We also want to add 'house move permit' to the rest of the ordinance," Totman said. "We want to make sure that that's continued throughout the rest of the ordinance, so applicants know if they are moving a house it may fall

under that review."

Additional amendments include clarifying the language about the permitting process to clearly state the criteria being evaluated, and allowing staff to make an administrative approval of house moves that are occurring within city limits.

The last update applies to the New Braunfels Historic Landmark Commission's denial of a demolition permit to reflect state law.

The update means that if a demolition permit is not approved, and the owner objects to the historic designation, the property will require a supermajority in favor of the landmark designation from the Historic Landmark Commission and City Council for the

designated to be applied. During discussions, commissioner Chad Nolte expressed concern over the house move permit portion of the amendment.

"It kind of makes me uneasy, because that's somebody's property that they are trying to preserve — it just may not be within the city of New Braunfels," Nolte said. "So I kind of don't like the house move

permit in there. I'm also worried about if you're going to blanket the entire city with this, it might be easier if you just pick certain areas of town."

Nolte suggested areas such as the Sophienburg and downtown where those processes occur more often, as covering the city as a whole might place an administrative burden on the department.

While a motion was made to recommend approval to City Council, four commissioners voted for the recommendation, four against, and one commissioner was absent from the meeting.

Because of the tie, a recommendation was not made to City Council, but the item will still make its way to council for consideration.



2024 GVTC Annual Membership Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 6:30 PM

ATTEND IN PERSON FOR A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES

GVTC Smithson Valley Office Auditorium
36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132
(doors OPEN at 5:30 PM)

Vote online or by mail from 5/28/24 to 6/25/24 for a chance to win prizes!

VOTE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN*

Microsoft Xbox Series S 1 TB Console • GE Profile Opal 2.0 Portable Ice Maker • De'Longhi All-In-One Coffee and Espresso Machine
One of ten \$100 gift cards

Starting May 28, watch for instructions on how to cast your vote. Voting will only be available online or by mail until June 25. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting, but no voting will take place there. For more information, visit gvtc.com/vote.

*GVTC Members are eligible to win one prize per membership. Terms and conditions apply. Visit gvtc.com/annualmeeting or gvtc.com/vote to learn more.

Capital Credit Check Important Information: Checks will not be printed at the Annual Meeting. Capital Credit amounts will be applied to members' June 2023 bills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GVTC.COM/ANNUALMEETING

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