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WEATHER



Readings for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today:

TONIGHT: Partly cloudy skies. Low 76. Winds light and variable. Sunny along with a few clouds. High 99. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

DEATHS, 3A

- Elizabeth Albrecht
- Burney Boecker
- Vernell Foyt
- Connie Goeth Jr.

AGRICULTURE, 5A

Pest management program to be held Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FBI warns of more attacks after shots fired at ICE offices

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An FBI supervisor in Texas said he's concerned that additional attacks could occur after shots were fired at a building housing federal immigration enforcement personnel.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs said, "We cannot allow political discourse to lead us to the point of violence."

Combs said at least one vehicle pulled up to a building in San Antonio early Tuesday that houses offices for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and a gunman fired shots through a window.

He said the building has several tenants and the gunman must have known where the ICE offices were located. There were ICE employees inside at the time but none were hurt.

HERE & THERE

Happy birthday wishes today go to NOVELLA KING; TOMMY LARA; WAYNE DEEDS; GAYNELL WILLIAMS; and BRENDA PRESTWOOD ...

TODAY'S VERSE

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 1:5-7

WATER USAGE

Lake Somerville full stage: 238.0.
 Lake level at 7 a.m. today: 243.50.
City of Brenham water usage:
 Aug. 14: 4,163 million gallons
Rainfall this month: 1.45"
Rainfall this year: 28.60"
Average annual rainfall: 45.34"

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School accountability ratings released

Brenham school officials say the district made significant gains in several areas measured by the statewide accountability standards, earning a "B" rating from the Texas Education Agency.

TEA today released 2019 accountability ratings designed to measure each district — and each of its campuses.

The Burton district also

earned a B rating overall. Officials there were not available for comment this morning.

Overall, Brenham ISD's score increased by eight points, moving from a 79 in the 2017-18 school year to an 87 for the 2018-19 school year. Its campuses also earned a total of 12 distinction designations, which are awarded

based on their performance compared to a group of 40 other campuses of a similar type, size, grade span and student demographics.

The rating for each campus was:

- Alton Elementary School — C, one distinction designation.
- Brenham Elementary School — D.

• Krause Elementary School — B, four distinction designations.

• Brenham Middle School — B, three distinction designations.

• Brenham Junior High School — B, three distinction designations.

• Brenham High School — B, one distinction designation.

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our administrators, teachers and support staff who work every day to make our vision of student success a reality," said Superintendent Walter Jackson.

"We assure our parents and community that we will

SCHOOL continued on A3



Lydia Hill/Banner-Press

Dr. Jim Burdine (standing, center) and Dr. Heather Clark (standing, right) discuss the history of their health assessment study before detailing the findings Wednesday at Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library.

Researchers present county health assessment results

Community gathers to hear data on health, other local issues

By Lydia Hill
 lifestyles@brenhambanner.com

Community members gathered Wednesday to hear data on health and other issues in Washington County presented by researchers from the Texas A&M Center for Community Development.

Dr. Jim Burdine and Brenham native Dr. Heather Clark, professors at the Texas

A&M School of Public Health, presented and explained the results of their 2019 Brazos Valley Health Status Assessment.

The study, conducted every three years since 2002, used secondary data, community discussion groups and surveys to collect information on health-related issues and other problems facing Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes,

Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington counties.

"(We're) basically looking at what's going on, factors of influence on the health status of the population of the region," said Burdine.

"What are things that are making people healthier and less healthy, so that organizations and agencies like yours

ASSESSMENT continued on A3

No comments at tax hearing

No citizens attend first of two public meetings

By Arthur Hahn
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Brenham property owners had a chance Wednesday to comment on a proposed tax rate that would add another \$64 to the bill of an average homeowner.

No citizens appeared at the public hearing, which was adjourned after only five minutes.

The city is required to hold two public hearing on the tax rate if it will generate additional revenues. The second hearing will be held Sept. 5.

Council members have already gone on record to set a rate of 51.4 cents per \$100 property valuation, a reduction of three-tenths of a cent.

While the overall rate would go down, it would generate additional tax revenue because of higher appraisals, said Carolyn Miller, assistant city manager and chief financial officer.

"Although this budget does decrease the property tax rate, it is above the effective rate and will produce higher taxes," said Miller.

The effective tax rate is the rate that will generate

the same amount of revenues, using new property values.

The city saw its total property values rise by about 9%; homes were up by about 8.3%, Miller said.

The average home here had an appraised value of \$162,511 for the 2018-19 budget. That rose to \$175,980 this year.

Of the proposed tax rate, 32 cents will be for operation and maintenance, with 19.4 cents for debt service.

The council still must have two separate votes to adopt a tax rate. Those are scheduled for Sept. 16 (at 8:30 a.m. in City Hall) and Sept. 19, during the regular council meeting.

The city's proposed budget of about \$73 million does include some additional fees that would impact the average homeowner about \$11 a month.

Those include an electric rate increase (impact of \$2.58 a month), implementing a sales tax on electricity and natural gas (\$1.96 a month), a water rate increase (99 cents a month), a garbage rate increase (\$1.38 a month) and a drainage fee (\$3.75 a month).

Gas prices drop 6¢

The statewide gas price average in Texas today is \$2.37 for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch.

That price is six cents less than on this day last week and is 24 cents less per gallon compared to this day last year.

Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in Midland and Odessa are paying the most on average at \$2.59 while drivers in McAllen are paying the least at \$2.19 per gallon.

The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$2.64, which is four cents less than this day last week and 21 cents less than the price per gallon at this same time last year.

Domestic gasoline stocks built by a surprising 4.4 million barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest data. Contributing to that was at least 1.2 million barrels



Arthur Hahn/Banner-Press

Roadside grass fires

A member of the Brenham Fire Department works to control a small grass fire Wednesday afternoon on the U.S. 290 Loop between Old Mill Creek Road and FM 389. It was one of several grass fires the department battled at the same time. It's believed that chains dragging from a trailer might have caused the fires.

GAS continued on A2