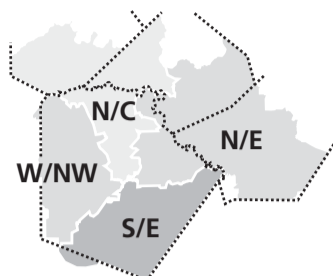


COMMUNITIES IN FOCUS

MYSA.COM

Keyword: Community
Do you have a story to tell? Go to MySA.com's new community page and submit it.



CALENDAR

NORTHEAST

TODAY

The Alamo City Council of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority will conduct a meeting.

When: 7 p.m. today
Where: 6849 Crestway
Contact: (210) 651-6021

ONGOING

The Thousand Oaks Branch Library is offering free chess nights for players of all ages and skill levels.

When: 6:30-8:45 p.m. every Wednesday
Where: 4618 Thousand Oaks Drive
Contact: (210) 657-5205

The Texas Chapter III of Polka Lovers Klub of America is sponsoring dance classes.

When: 7-9 p.m. every second Thursday
Where: Windcrest Civic Center
Contact: (210) 655-5528

NORTH CENTRAL

TODAY

The Gardening Volunteers of South Texas will hold a night class and mixer.

When: 6:30 p.m. today
Where: 2809 Broadway
Contact: (210) 522-9220

THURSDAY

The San Antonio Audubon Society will have its monthly meeting. Non-members are welcome to attend.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday
Where: 2809 Broadway
Contact: (210) 308-6788

SATURDAY

The San Antonio Progressive Action Coalition will hold its monthly meeting featuring Lionel Sosa of Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together.

When: 1-3 p.m. Saturday
Where: 6510 San Pedro
Contact: (210) 492-3069

MONDAY

The Bexar County Democratic Women will meet to discuss the bylaw changes and nominated officers for the upcoming election.

When: 6-8 p.m. Monday
Where: 6111 Rosedale Court
Contact: (210) 492-3069

ONGOING

The San Antonio Needlework Guild will meet. Visitors are welcome.

When: 6:30 p.m. fourth Tuesday of each month
Where: Chandler Senior Center, 137 W. French Place
Contact: (210) 349-2815

La Casita Learning Center is offering free English as a second language, GED and computer classes for women.

When: 8:30 W. Mulberry
Contact: (210) 733-5467

NORTHWEST

ONGOING

The Canyon Lake Computer Club is meeting.

When: 6:30 p.m. every fourth Monday
Contact: (830) 899-5922

Grey Forest will conduct its second annual Farmer's Market through Nov. 21.

When: 3-6 p.m. every first and third Friday of the month
Where: 18249 Sherwood Trail
Contact: (210) 695-9184 or (210) 695-4892

The Benita Family Center is offering free English-as-a-second-language classes, GED tutoring and computer and citizenship classes.

When: 4:50-6:30 p.m.
Contact: (210) 433-9300

Project Quest is holding information sessions for those interested in being construction or plumbing trainees.

When: 10 a.m. daily
Where: 301 S. Frio St.
Contact: (210) 270-4690

The San Antonio Evening Rotary Club will meet.

When: 6 p.m. every Thursday
Where: 10820 Bandera
Contact: (210) 222-8242

SOUTH/SOUTHEAST

ONGOING

CentroMed Elder House is offering free and reduced-price meals as part of its Child and Adult Care Food Program. Call for eligibility.

When: 123 Ascot
Contact: (210) 922-0103

The Wilson County Area Brain Tumor Support/Survivor Group meets monthly.

When: 7 p.m. every third Tuesday
Where: Connally Memorial Hospital, U.S. 181, Floresville
Contact: (830) 779-3059

The Department of Veterans Affairs has established a new behavioral health-care team to assist veterans returning to the Lower Rio Grande Valley from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The team assists returning veterans in obtaining VA health care and provides counseling services for a variety of post-deployment issues.

When: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. daily
Where: Central Library, 600 Soledad
Contact: (210) 656-0355

HOLLYWOOD PARK

City Hall gets metal detector

Small-town attack spurs council to boost court, meeting security.

By COLIN McDONALD
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A lone gunman on a shooting spree in Missouri instigated a change at Hollywood Park's City Hall, making it now one of the

most secure public meeting venues in Bexar County.

Anyone going to court today in the town of 3,000 residents will have to pass through a brand new metal detector, walk by the bulletproof glass of the receptionists and under at least two cameras.

"The idea is to deter people from bringing a gun into City Hall," said Joe Quintero, the city's deputy police chief. "With all the violence we have had

around the United States it's become a necessity."

On Feb. 7, Charles Lee "Cookie" Thornton walked into the Kirkwood City Hall outside of St. Louis and shot five people to death before police fatally shot him. Thornton had a history of grievances against the city and often disrupted council meetings. The shooting in Kirkwood took the lives of two council members, two police officers and the public works director

and left the mayor in critical condition.

Immediately after the shooting, Quintero put together a presentation for the Hollywood Park City Council about the need to purchase a \$3,500 metal detector. Quintero's proposal passed with one council member abstaining from the vote.

Quintero said the new reality is that anytime a person goes into a public building they will be searched and monitored by

video. The new machine expense is the latest in more than \$26,000 the city has spent on security features over the past two years.

The city is not alone. Small municipalities across the country are upping their security measures. Locally, Hill Country Village is considering installing video cameras and the staff of Schertz moved into a new build-

See TOWN/7B

WHEN LIVING IN A FANTASY WORLD ISN'T A BAD THING



PHOTOS BY ANGELA GRANT/STAFF

Ken Theriot, also known as Sir Ken Kenneth in the Society for Creative Anachronism, takes a break from swordfighting. The Barony of Bjornsborg, the local SAC chapter, meets Saturday mornings at Walker Ranch Historic Landmark Park.

Going medieval

Society for Creative Anachronism brings chivalry to 21st century.

By VINCENT T. DAVIS
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Baron of Bjornsborg sat upon his throne, looking on as combatants, wielding rapiers, stalked each other near the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The smell of roasted chicken drifted in the air. An archer plucked a lyrical theme, on his harp. The flags of England and Germany flapped in the wind atop tents bordering the field of combat.

Two teams, one from Spain, the other from Italy, faced each other. Each team had two fighters tethered to ropes that a team-



Ruth Cantu, aka Haroun al Tayyib, fights off a blow with her shield. Swordplay is one of the medieval skills that members of the group learn.

mate controlled like a farmer steering plow horses.

"Honor and Glory!" the moderator said, raising a staff dividing the teams. "Lay on!" The armored combatants stalked each other, spurred by yells from men and women sitting on wooden

benches in several tents.

Within minutes, the two fighters out front for Italy were slain by the lead players from Spain. The Spaniards pursued the last Italian. As they closed in, he

See ROLE-PLAYING/7B

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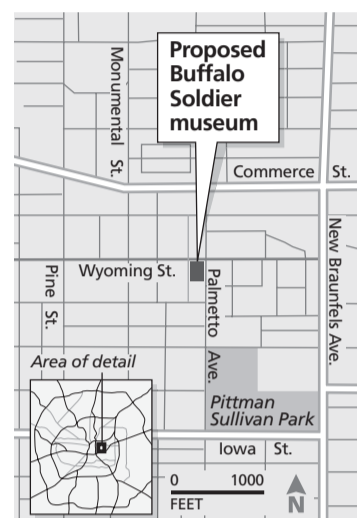
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To see the Society for Creative Anachronism in action.

MORE INFO

For more information about the Society for Creative Anachronism call Melissa Baxter-Kosub at (210) 844-7221 or e-mail mbaxter66@satx.rr.com.

DENVER HEIGHTS



EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

Museum would be a lasting salute

By ELAINE AYO
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

When retired Air Force Master Sgt. Billy Gordon and his friends answered an ad for black horse riders to serve as extras in a television miniseries, they had a vague idea of who the Buffalo Soldiers were, but not what they achieved.

"I must have heard the name, but didn't know any history," Gordon said. "Then once I began to research I was blown away."

But like many other times in history, the Buffalo Soldiers were largely cut out of the movie.

"Instead of saying somebody needs to educate the public in what these military units did, we decided to do it ourselves," Gordon said.

The Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers' Association celebrates the history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry, the first black Americans to become full members of the country's standing army.

"We've got a beautiful history quilt of many pieces, what we're doing is sewing in a missing piece of that quilt," Gordon said while speaking at a historical

See EAST SIDE/7B

IN YOUR VIEW



COURTESY PHOTO

Several contestants competed for cash prizes and the distinction of being the tamale eating champ at Delicious Tamales' location on Culebra Road last year. Delicious Tamales will sponsor its third annual Tamale Eating Contest on April 26 — this time at Plaza Guadalupe.

>> MYSA.COM

What's going on in your neighborhood? Send us a snapshot! **Keyword: Community**

Q&A 5 minutes with Loyd LeBlanc

How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

I was born in the neighborhood on Olive Street. My family on my mother's side has lived continuously in Highland Park since her parents bought a house here in 1920. We lived there until my parents purchased a home on Kayton Avenue in 1946.

Can you describe how the neighborhood looked while you were growing up?

It was very quiet and peaceful; we were almost on the edge of San Antonio. There were not any freeways beyond us and it was absolute silence as far as you could hear. A time or two I could smell the coast, there was nothing between us and the seawater.

When was the association formed?

The association was formed in 1985. A younger couple felt that we needed something for the neighborhood. The husband was very active, he visited a number of people and the retired were particularly enthused (about the prospect).

How has the neighborhood association helped the area?

It has helped to combat deterioration. Everybody was by themselves, isolated and didn't know what to do. We didn't have any moral support. When you're all by yourself, you don't know



LeBlanc, 76, is the treasurer for the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, which has been instrumental in cleanup efforts of their Southeast Side neighborhood.

what to do. Almost every month we had a speaker come in. That increased our knowledge of what to do. It helped to bring us together more.

What are your hopes for your neighborhood?

We hope to bring it back to what it once was. We want it to be a place where people will respect each other more. The more desirable it becomes to live here again the better for all of us.

How did the recent city cleanup help your neighborhood?

The cleanup helped people feel better. People were discouraged but they're feeling more positive now. They know they don't have to just sit there and feel helpless and let things drift on.

— Vincent T. Davis