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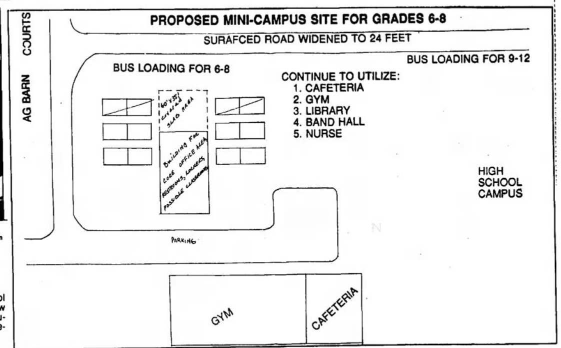
The Kerrville Times (Kerrville, Texas) · Tue, Mar 17, 1992 · Page 3
Printed on Mar 24, 2020

Times Photo by Michael Bowlin

Board meets

About two dozen teachers attended Monday's Ingram school board meeting where it was agreed by the board to create a new middle school campus. The idea was well-received by the educators. School officials said the project would be funded with reserves and through lease-purchases.



Ingram trustees OK creation of middle school

Officials say no bond issue will be required for project

By MICHAEL BOWLIN
Times Staff Writer

INGRAM — After more than four years of discussion, Ingram school trustees Monday think they have finally found a viable way to separate the junior high students from the high school.

Trustees unanimously agreed to create a middle school campus on school property off Texas 39 near the present high school.

The new campus, which would house 6th, 7th and 8th grades (about 270 students), would be located behind the Ingram Tom Moore gymnasium-cafeteria, explained Ingram school superintendent Mary Ward.

It will include six portable classroom buildings (12 classes total) and a 9,000 square-foot core structure that would house three science laboratories an art lab, teacher's work and conference areas, administrative offices and restrooms. There would also be a 60-foot by 35-foot covered commons area on one end of the core building, she added.

"And there's room for expansion, if needed," Ward said.

Three of the portables would be moved to the new middle school site from the high school, while the other three portables would be new purchases, she explained.

Preliminary costs of the middle school campus is $455,000, according to construction manager Franklin Johnston, whom trustees hired Monday night.

The capital improvement project would be paid for from school reserves and through lease-purchase, Ward said.

"There would be no bond issue," stressed Ingram trustee Elmer Mahlke.

About two dozen elementary and junior high teachers attended Monday's meeting and were extremely enthusiatic about the middle school proposal.

Eighth grade math teacher Kathy Gilson spoke for the majority when she said, "We're extremely excited."

Adminstration and board members emphasized Monday that the creation of a new middle school was not just a grade arrangement.

"It's a philospohical adjustment in how we educate and support middle grade students," Ward said.

Ward said she will be setting a meeting between parents and school officials concerning the reorganization of the middle school.

"We will be notifying parents soon at to the time and place of that meeting," she added.

Austin police hunting man for questioning in slayings

AUSTIN (AP) — Striking similarities in composite sketches of suspects in two cases have police looking to question a man in the slayings of four teen-age girls at a yogurt shop.

Authorities said Monday that the man, believed to be 20 to 21 years old, was seen sitting in an older model, four-door white automobile about the time the four girls were shot to death inside the yogurt shop.

The four girls — Jennifer Harbison, 17; her sister, Sarah Harbison, 15; Eliza Thomas, 17; and Amy Ayers, 13 — were found early the morning of Dec. 7 by fire fighters who had responded to a blaze at the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt shop in northwest Austin.

The girls were tied up and each shot in the back of the head. Police said the fire apparently was started to try to cover up the killings.

Police spokeswoman Gail Phillips said the man's appearance was very similar to one of three men wanted in the Nov. 17 abduction and rape of an Austin woman.

According to the victim, she was kidnapped in the Sixth Street nightclub area, driven to an apartment complex near the yogurt shop, then driven to San Antonio, Ms. Phillips said.

> The girls were tied up and each shot in the back of the head. Police said the fire apparently was started to try to cover up the killings.

Police said the man they are looking for is possibly Hispanic, 20 to 21 years old, 5-foot-4 inches tall, medium build and weighing about 140 pounds. He has straight black hair that falls slightly below his shoulders.

Police also said they are looking for four people who were inside the yogurt shop the night of the killings.

Two customers were described as black women who sat together for 40 to 45 minutes; the others were a couple believed to be in their mid-20s who sat together and talked about having just seen a movie, police said.

Photo by B.C. Dozier

Pachyderm pause

Elephant trainer John Darrell, with the King Royal Circus, feeds 25-year-old Indian elephant "Boo," in between performances at the Hill Country Arts Foundation Monday. The well-attended circus was sponsored by the West Kerr County Chamber of Commerce as a fund-raiser.

Cunningham tops UT-system chancellor list, newspaper reports

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas System regents are scheduled to meet today to review 35 candidates vying to become the next system chancellor.

UT officials declined to release the names of those job prospects, but the Austin American-Statesman reported Monday that sources close to the search said UT-Austin President William Cunningham is the front-runner among Texans being considered for the post.

The current chancellor, Hans Mark, is stepping down later this year.

Cunningham, who took over as UT-Austin president in 1985, declined to comment when asked if he had applied for the $200,300 a year job.

At least three of the six former chancellors have been president of UT-Austin before moving up.

At today's meeting, regents also are expected to review names of other system university presidents and officials, the newspaper reported. Those include Diana Natalicio, president of UT-El Paso; James Duncan, executive vice chancellor for UT system academic affairs, and Dr. Charles Mullins, executive vice chancellor for UT system health affairs.

Art Dilly, executive secretary to the board of regents, said the regents couldn't hire a candidate today even if agreement is reached.

Regents last week said they were seeking candidates familiar with Texas politics and education issues.

First-time burglar gets hurt, probation for effort

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Crime not only doesn't pay. It also hurts.

That was what a first-time burglar discovered when he decided to break into a liquor store after he and his buddies ran out of something to drink.

Carlos Carrasco, 24, was sentenced to 10 years probation and ordered to perform 100 hours of public service after he pleaded guilty in the Aug. 28, 1991, burglary of Arispe Beverages.

Court records portray a hapless burglar who did everything wrong from leaving his wallet at the crime scene to leaving a trail of blood from the burglary scene to his home around the corner.

Officers trailed Carrasco by following the bloody trail around the corner to his home.

Because it was his first conviction, District Judge Pat Priest granted a defense request for probation.

Hill Country Today

LORENE BOHANNAN
Services Pending

KERRVILLE — Services for Lorene Bohannan, 94, of Kerrville, who died this morning in a Kerrville nursing home, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapel.

CHARLES F. BUCHER SR.
Services Friday

LAKEHILLS — Memorial services for Charles Francis Bucher Sr., 43, of Lakehills who died Thursday at his residence, will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Villa de Paz, 3114 West Ashby in San Antonio with the Rev. Francis Coley officiating.

A memorial service will also be held Friday at 2 p.m. at Faith Chapel in Lakehills.

Born Jan. 23, 1949 in Canton, Ohio, Mr. Bucher had been a resident of Lakehills for eight years. He was self-employed in the construction business.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Bucher of San Antonio; mother, Marian Bucher of Canton, Ohio; a daughter, Denisa Villalobos of San Antonio; two sons, Charles F. Bucher Jr. of Lakehills and Jeff Bucher of San Antonio; two brothers, Robert Upton of Canton, Ohio and James Bucher of Alabama; and two grandchildren.

Grimes Funeral Chapel in Bandera is in charge of arrangements.

BILLIE J. CUNNINGHAM
Services Pending

KERRVILLE — Services for Mrs. Billie Jeanne Cunningham, 65, of Kerrville, who died Monday in a Kerrville hospital, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapel.

THOMAS M. MADIGAN
Services in Illinois

KERRVILLE — Services for Thomas Michael Madigan, 60, of Oak Lawn, Ill., who died Saturday in a Kerrville hospital, were to be held at Heinen and Loschetter Funeral Home in Burbank, Ill., with burial to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery in Evergreen, Ill.

Born March 2, 1932 in Chicago, Ill., Mr. Madigan had served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict.

Local arrangements were under the direction of Grimes Funeral Chapel in Kerrville.

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LEE M. LIGHTNER
Private Services

KERRVILLE — Private memorial services for Major General Lee M. Lightner, 76, of Kerrville, who died Saturday at his residence, will be held at a later date.

Born May 28, 1915 in Guymon, Okla., Gen. Lightner was a career Air Force dentist who served on active duty for over 30 years through World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. His last assignment, prior to retirement, was in Washington, D.C. where he served as assistant surgeon general for Air Force Dental Services. He retired in 1970 and moved to Kerrville and lived on a small ranch. He married Helen C. Critz on Aug. 18, 1941 in Riverside, Calif. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Jeffrey Lightner of Auoroa, Colo. and Stephen M. Lightner of Placeville, Calif.; two sisters, Mary Alice Johnson of LaSalle, Calif. and Belva Jean Hough of Arlington; his stepmother, Mrs. I.M. Lightner of Guymon, Okla.; and four grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Heart of the Hills Hospice.

Kerrville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

JESUSA A. VARGAS
Services Pending

FREDERICKSBURG — Services for Mrs. Jesusa A. Vargas, 87, of Kerrville, who died Monday in a Fredericksburg hospital, are pending at Grimes Funeral Chapel in Kerrville.

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