

Lady Bucks clinch
playoff spot—
See Sports, Page 8



The NED Show—
See Life, Page 4

Breckenridge American

YOUR SOURCE FOR HOMETOWN NEWS, SPORTS AND FEATURES

WEEKEND EDITION

www.breckenridgeamerican.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010

Trustees hear report on School FIRST ratings

By **ROB DURHAM**
editor@breckenridgeamerican.com

Breckenridge ISD's Board of Trustees received a report on the district's financial accountability rating at the Oct. 11 regular meeting.

BISD received a rating of "Above Standard Achievement" under Texas' School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) financial accountability rating.

The rating BISD received is the

second-highest rating of the financial management and reporting system.

The School FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts with the highest being "Superior Achievement," followed by "Above-Standard Achievement," "Standard Achievement," and "Substandard Achievement."

Breckenridge ISD's rating is based on an analysis of staff and student data, budgetary, and ac-

tual financial data reported for the 2008-2009 school year. Breckenridge ISD met 21 of 22 indicators resulting in a rating of Above Standard Achievement.

"Breckenridge ISD strives to be accountable not only for student performance in the classroom, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently," said James Marrs, BISD Business Manager. "The School FIRST system serves as a guide in our continued efforts to be good stewards of our taxpayers' money."

Margie Thompson, coordinator for ESL (English as a Second Language), reported on the progress of the program in the district.

Thompson said the program hasn't been used primarily for Spanish-speaking students but some of the district's exchange students have been active in the program as well.

Breckenridge ISD offers ESL for LEP (Limited English Proficient) students in Pre-K through grade 12.

Thompson said currently 89 stu-

dents are in the ESL program district-wide.

Linda Sims, BISD Director of Instruction, gave a report on the Federal Title I program that funds academic services for qualified public schools, private school students and home-schooled students.

Sims reported that BISD received a total of \$487,591 in Title I aid for the 2010-2011 school year.

The stipend will go toward salaries, staff development, supplies/materials and the improvement of (See BISD, Page 3)

Commissioners invest hope in SGR to find next City Manager

By **ROB DURHAM**
editor@breckenridgeamerican.com



The city of Breckenridge awarded a contract to Strategic Government Resources to conduct a search for the next City Manager of Breckenridge.

Commissioners met in a special session Tuesday to hear proposals from three recruitment companies, Waters-Oldani Executive Recruitment Group, Ray Associates, Inc. and Strategic Government Resources.

Ron Holifield with Strategic Government Resources said he is excited to go to work and find a viable candidate for the City Manager's position.

"I think this will be a fun candidate search simply because of the story Breckenridge has to tell," he said. "This will be a good job to have and whoever gets the job will have some big shoes to fill."

Holifield said the process to find the next candidate will take a (See CITY, Page 3)

Ron Holifield, CEO of Strategic Government Resources, discusses his firm's services with members of the Breckenridge City Commission during Tuesday's special meeting at the City Chambers.
(Staff Photo by Rob Durham)

Knight elected treasurer of TMCA

Linda Knight was elected treasurer of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., (TMCA) at its annual meeting Oct. 14 in Galveston.

The Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., is a statewide association with over 900 members.

The Association operates the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program located at the University of North Texas, Denton.

The Certification Program is recognized and endorsed by Section 22.074 of the Local Government Code, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes.

TMCA, Inc., publishes the Texas Municipal Election Law Manu-

al, the Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual and the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook.

Knight, who serves as the Breckenridge City Secretary, will be charged with the responsibility of accomplishing the goals and objectives of TMCA, Inc.

She co-presented the (Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP) Election Law Seminar's Early Voting Session in 2007 and 2008, and co-presented the Election Law Seminar's Step by Step session from 2007 to 2009.

Knight has been a longtime and active member of TMCA and is active in the Bluebonnet Chapter of (See KNIGHT, Page 3)



Linda Knight, Breckenridge City Secretary, was recently elected treasurer of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. Knight has been a Breckenridge city employee since 1975, and has served as the city Secretary for 18 years.
(Staff Photo by Rob Durham)

Breckenridge ISD purchases 71-passenger school bus, establishes 2010-2011 tax rate

By **ROB DURHAM**
editor@breckenridgeamerican.com

Breckenridge ISD trustees approved the purchase of a school passenger bus in a special-called meeting.

The bus will be a 2008 Blue Bird 71-passenger bus.

The bus will be purchased at a cost of \$78,000 from American Bus Sales out of Owasso, Okla.

The bus is scheduled for delivery to the district in early November.

The district normally purchases one to two buses each school year in hopes of maintaining reliable student transportation.

However, the district did not pur-

chase any new buses last year but was able to put together funds for the passenger bus in the 2010-2011 budget year.

The bus will come with an air conditioning system and will meet all Texas state specs and regulations.

Also at the meeting, trustees approved Patricia Duett for a teaching position at East Elementary.

Duett, a BHS graduate and 2010 graduate of McMurry University will teach kindergarten through Dec. 2010.

BISD Set 2010-2011 tax rate

The BISD Board set the 2010-2011 tax rate at \$1.1213. The M&O

(Maintenance and Operation) rate was set at \$1.04, while Interest and Sinking Debt Service was firmed up at \$.0813, a total reduction of \$.0022 from 2009-2010.

"Nothing was cut this year," said BISD Business Manager James Marrs. "Except for personnel, the budget was basically a carbon copy of the 2009-2010 budget."

The tax rate set will effectively raise more taxes for maintenance and operation that the 2009-2010 rate.

The rate set will raise taxes by 11.68 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a home values at \$100,000 by approximately \$108.80.

Breckenridge American
91st Year—No. 85 • 75¢
editor@breckenridgeamerican.com
A MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

Sat 10/23	Sun 10/24	Mon 10/25	Tue 10/26
81/57 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	83/53 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	86/54 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	79/56 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

WEATHER ALMANAC		
Monthly/Yearly Rainfall	Daily Temperature/Rainfall	
	H	L RF
October total..... 0.10	October 19	—85—56—.10
Year to date 24.84	October 20	—82—58—.00
October 2009 total..... 27.88	October 21	—82—57—.00

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Opinion.....	2
Life.....	4-6
Historically Speaking.....	4
Entertainment	5
TV Listings	9
Sports	8-9
Classified Ads	11-13

Black and Downing Insurance
126 W. Walker - (254) 559-5434

©2010 American Profile Hometown Content Service

Early voting continues through Oct. 29

The Election Day for the Stephens County General Election will be Tuesday, Nov. 2.

The polling locations for election day will be: Precinct 1: First National Bank Tower Room, 101. E. Walker; Precinct 2: Citizens National Bank Gold Room, 301 W. Walker; Precinct 3: Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce, 100 E. Elm; Precinct 4: BISD Service Center, 907 Hwy 183 North; Precinct 5: Wayland Community Center, 10276 FM 1852; and Precinct 6: New Hope Baptist Church, 7667 FM 717 South.

The polling location for early voting will be from Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stephens County Courthouse. Early voting by personal appear-

ance will start Monday, Oct. 18 and run conclude Friday, Oct. 29. All of the eligible voters of Stephens County may vote for all of the positions.

If you have lost your voter's registration card, you can call the Stephens County Tax Office/Noter Registrar at 254-559-2732 or 254-559-6513 and they will be happy to issue you a duplicate card.

If you have moved, you will need to go by the Stephens County Tax Office/Noter Registrar and fill out an address change form.

You will need your driver's license number, DPS Personal ID Card, or the last (4) digits of your social security number to make any of the above changes or to register to vote.

Election workers will no longer be allowed to swear to the identity of a voter so the voter must have their voter registration card or the following forms of ID as required by the Secretary of State:

- Drivers license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired;

- A form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity;

- A birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;

- United States citizenship papers issued to the person;

- United States passport issued to the person;

- Official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;

- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; or

- Any other form of identification prescribed by the Secretary of State's Office.

If you have any questions concerning the City Election, please contact Tax Assessor Collector Terry Sullivan at 559-2732.

Chamber still accepting 2010 award nominations

The Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Annual Awards.

The annual awards consist of "Citizen of the Year", "Agricultural Citizen of the Year", "Business of the Year", and the "Keep Stephens County Beautiful Improvement Award."

In order to nominate a business or individual, all you have to do is include their name and an explanation as to why you think they should receive the award in 100 words or less.

All nominations are due to the Chamber office no later

than Friday, Oct. 29, and will remain confidential.

You may e-mail them to chamber@breckenridgetexas.com, mail them to P.O. Box 1466 - Breckenridge, TX - 76424, or drop them off at the Chamber office located at 100 E. Elm St. - Breckenridge, TX - 76424.

The winners of each category will be honored at the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction (A Night at the Races) on Thursday, Nov. 11. For more information, call the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce at 254-559-2301.

BISD

(Continued from Page 1) math, reading and science through supplemental programs and tutorials.

Sims said it was important for BISD to use all of their Title I monies because if any money is left over, the district could see their funds decreased in the future.

The group also approved an out-of-state trip for the BISD FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) team that will compete at the FCCLA Na-

tional Cluster meeting Nov. 4-7 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Team members include Jennifer Morris, Ryan Wade, Cassidy Foreman, Lindsey Wimberley and Emily Oakley. The FCCLA advisor is Melissa Rhodes.

During the outing, students will attend leadership workshops, hear guest speakers on topics concerning volunteerism in their communities. Funding was available to cover the cost of the trip for the students.

In other business, Trustees:

- Declared Oct. 23-31 as "Safe and Drug-Free School Commitment Week"

- Declared Oct. 4-8 as National 4-H Week

- Received a donation of \$171.39 for Bunkley's Sound System and Tee's & More and \$3,295 to reimburse the district for a trailer for the athletic department. Both donations were from the Breckenridge Education Foundation.

City

(Continued from Page 1) grassroots approach.

"We will go out and spend a lot of time in Breckenridge — learning about the town and trying to understand the community as good as possible," he said. "We will meet with a lot of the community leaders in order to see if we can find a candidate that best matches the profile of the community."

"With Gary serving for as many years as he has, his reputation and history will help us provide good candidates and that's very beneficial to us."

The search will take approximately 60 days to replace current City Manager Gary Ernest, who will retire from the position effective December 31, 2010.

Ernest has served as the City Manager of Breckenridge the past 18 years and has been employed by the city for more than 34 years.

SGR Background

Holifield spent two decades in city management, which included service as City Manager in the Texas cities of Garland, DeSoto, Farmersville and Sundown, as well as Assistant City Manager in Plano.

He left city management in 1996 and purchased Government Relations Specialists, a small company that specialized in representing companies that do business with government at all levels.

In a little over three years, he doubled the size of the company, growing it into

one of the 50 largest lobby firms in Texas.

Holifield sold the company in 1999 and founded Strategic Government Resources (SGR) for the express purpose of facilitating collaboration among local governments on projects and issues that require an independent third party facilitator.

In 2001, a group of cities approached SGR about assisting in the creation of a training alliance.

Twelve municipal human resources directors came together to form the North Texas Municipal Alliance (NTMA).

A full year was devoted to gaining input, surveying cities and developing the right plan for success.

In 2002, SGR trained approximately 50 employees through NTMA in a supervisory series.

In 2004, SGR started producing its own curriculum on a contract basis, and in 2006, a decision was made to begin producing all course content in-house.

In 2007, SGR began offering a variety of employee assessment services, and by 2008, SGR was training over 700 employees per month. In 2009, SGR launched an online training initiative.

In addition to training, SGR provides a variety of other services to local government including executive recruitment, psychometric assessments, employee coaching and mentoring, and other collaborative activities where we can bring value to local government.

Knight

(Continued from Page 1) TMCA where she served as President.

She was honored as the Bluebonnet Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year in 1996.

The Association is dedicated to serving the demands of excellence in Texas' local

government and public problem solving.

Its principal missions are to motivate Texas city clerks and city secretaries to become leaders in their fields of governance and to provide an educational program for the beginning and career city clerk and city secretary.