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WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 4, 2017

\$1.00

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1 citation written for fireworks

JASON HENNINGTON
news@taylorpress.net

Fireworks are prohibited inside the city limits and can result in a fine up to \$2,000. According to Commander Joseph Branson, officers responded to 25 calls of fireworks in Taylor, but only one citation was written.

He said in most cases, by the time officers arrived, the people with the fireworks had already moved on to another place.

If caught with the fireworks, the person in question could be cited and have the fireworks confiscated and destroyed of properly. No fireworks were confiscated during the holiday weekend.

Branson said even if the fireworks have already been used, it could still result in a fine.

"We want everyone to be safe," Branson said. We want compliance. People should not be popping fireworks in town."

He said the ordinance is in place because of the danger of fireworks, and people should leave it to the professionals.

Re-building a road



Construction continues on Twelfth Street, which has been closed since Sept. 19. The sewer line between Twelfth and Talbot is being replaced and re-routed because the line beneath the street collapsed after a heavy rain in March of last year. The break caused about 300,000 gallons of untreated water to dump into the Murphy Park Lake. The cost of the repairs is about \$300,000.

Photo by Richard Stone

TEE Foundation goes old school

Taylor's Education Enrichment (TEE) Foundation is going retro for its first community fundraising event.

The TEE Foundation is hosting "Old School at the Old School", an 80s themed dance party. The dance will be held at the Seventh Street campus on Jan. 14 from 8 to 11 p.m.

The foundation is raising money for the classroom grant program, which provides funds to help enrich education in Taylor ISD.

Julie Rydell, TEE Foundation VP of Marketing, said the events committee wanted to kick off the new year with something fun and unusual for Taylor.

"The dance is a wonderful opportunity to support the foundation and Taylor students while having a great time without having to leave town," she said.

The 80s event will feature food trucks, a mini-arcade, a silent auction and a photo booth. 80s attire is encouraged.

"Please feel free to tease your bangs sky-high! We are all about authentic 80s style, but acid-wash jeans and leg warmers aren't required," Rydell said.

See TEE • page 6

Entertainers of the Year named

NEW BRAUNFELS — Paul and Tara Schlesinger of Taylor were recently named Entertainers of the Year by the Country Music Hall of Fame of Gatesville. The announcement took place at the December Comal Country Music Show in New Braunfels, where the Schlesingers perform as members of the house band on a monthly basis.

Roger Vierser, director of the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame, presented the Schlesingers with certificates and a trophy in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments and musical abilities.

Mr. Schlesinger was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012, and named its Country and Swing Artist of the Year in 2014.

"Tara and Paul mean an awful



Director of the Country Music Hall of Fame of Gatesville Roger Vierser (right) presents Entertainers of the Year awards Tara and Paul Schlesinger of Taylor during a ceremony at the Comal Country Music Show in New Braunfels on Dec. 20.

Photo by Donna Schlesinger

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Durcon re-organizes age-old committee

JASON HENNINGTON
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Durcon Inc. wants to lend a helping-hand, and can do so since the re-organization of the company's Charitable Contributions Committee. The committee seeks out ways to make donations that have a positive impact on the community.

"Our goal is to reach out to the community and find things that the community has that they need help with," said committee member Thomas Martinez. "That also betters the communities that our employees line in, because that is part of our goal too."

The committee reformed in February of last year with new



Durcon made a \$500 donation to the Thrall ISD Tiger Giving Tree. (From left) Principal Jolena Pokorny and District Nurse Lynn Crabb accepted the donation from Charitable Contributions Committee members Shelly Penn and Thomas Martinez.

Courtesy photo

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Don't miss the magic

Banquet ticket sales end Jan. 6

There is magic in imagination plus man-power.

And that is the theme behind this year's Chamber and Community Awards Banquet.

"We know that when we work together, we can make great things happen for our community," Theresa Pore said. "Your business community will be working in 2017 to 'Put Taylor on the Map,' and we are starting it off with a bang.

Pore, Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce 2017 Board Chair, said she hopes businesses and individuals throughout Taylor will join us at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 for the Chamber's celebration of Taylor at the Williamson County Expo Center.

Individual tickets are on sale through Jan. 6 for \$40 each.

"We are planning a new style event with everything you love about the banquet plus a few things to make the evening more fun," Banquet Chair Stacey Smith said.

A highlight will be strolling and a short show by Austin magician and humorist Cody Fisher.

"We are expecting

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lot to the members of the Hall of Fame, and to a lot of people around the country, as they sing and play everywhere." Viers said. "It was our distinct honor to induct Paul into the Hall of Fame. I felt he had everything going for him in the right direction. Then he went and got married ... and things only improved."

The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame holds a show every month in their city auditorium, and the Schlesingers were featured performers in September. Of all the entertainers that performed throughout the year, the Hall of Fame's directors felt the Schlesingers deserved their highest annual recognition. Due to the Schlesingers' travel schedule, the presentation occurred on stage in New Braunfels rather than the Gatesville Hall of Fame.

Mr. Schlesinger, a lifelong resident of Taylor and a 1989 graduate from Taylor High School, is a fiddle player and vocalist, and his wife Tara, previously from Rosanky, is a pianist and vocalist. They married on June 27, 2015. The couple performs regularly at the Lee and Milam County Cowboy Churches, the S.J.S.T. Assisted Living facility, and once a month for the South Austin Senior Dance Club as members of the Stardusters band.

Mr. Schlesinger's band, the Knights of Texas Swing, performs at many area venues, including Patsy's Café in Austin, and the annual Old Settler's Reunion in Round Rock. His latest CD, "Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing," was released earlier last year, and united him with many area, renowned western swing performers whose recording histories date back to the 1940s.

The CD has been nominated for an Academy of Western Artists Award

in Western Swing, and earned a five-star review in the July issue of Country Music People, an internationally distributed magazine from the UK. The November issue features a four-page interview and pictorial focusing on Paul's music background.

As of December, the CD has held the number one position for the most requested album on the nationally distributed "Swingin' West" western swing radio show for the past four months. The track "This Song Is Just For You," penned by the late Cecil "Butterball" Harris of Taylor, held the number two position for 3 months on the same chart. The CD can be purchased from Paul's website, www.paulschlesinger.com, or locally at Friends of the Bride, and Plain Jane's on Main.

Mrs. Schlesinger is an assistant activities coordinator at the S.J.S.T. Skilled Nursing facility in Taylor. She has a love for classic country, southern gospel, swing and oldies rock-style music. She played in local bands around the Bastrop area, including the country-gospel group Gettin' on Track, as well as the Hwy 304 Band, playing everything from the Eagles, Georges Strait and Jones, Patsy Cline, Fats Domino, Floyd Cramer and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Mr. Schlesinger is a 22-year employee of the Texas Dental Association in Austin. He also performs with Glen Collins and the Alibis, a classic-country show and dance hall band who have been featured on the syndicated television program "Songwriters Across Texas," and perform all over Central Texas, including regular dances in area venues such as the Taylor and Elgin S.J.S.T. halls.

For more information, be sure to visit www.facebook.com/schlesinger.paul.



The Taylor Fire Department accepts a donation from Durcon for the Red Santa Program.

Photo by Jason Hennington

DURCON • page 1

members and a new VP Representative. The committee wants to donate money and time to different organizations.

"We just want to give back," said Kent Cook, VP of Sales and Marketing. "Part of the core of the company is 'people who care,' so we want to put our money where our mouth is."

He said Durcon wants to be engaged in the community, and money helps, but the company understands that volunteer hours also help.

"Unseen charitable donation and giving back to the community is the goal," Cook said.

Matt Solomon, Marketing Manager said the goal is to just be good citizens in the community.

"That means acting fast to get on an urgent need or committing to long-term projects or goals, and that's what we want to do," he said.

Committee members

PROGRAMS DURCON SPONSORED IN DECEMBER:

Programs that we are sponsoring in December of this year include –

- Taylor ISD – Holiday Outreach Program
- Taylor – Meals on Wheels
- Taylor – Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry
- Taylor – A Flood of Hope Challenge
- Taylor – SPJST Adopt a Grandparent program
- Thrall – Blue Santa
- Thrall ISD – Giving Tree
- Taylor Fire Dept. – Red Santa
- Granger – Socks for the Souls

go through the projects presented to the committee and decide what organizations they will help.

"If they need some help at a non-profit organization, a school, library or somewhere funds are usually tight, we can make their dollars stretch a lot further," Cook said.

He said the committee tries to be fair in determining where Durcon can make the best impact.

"We want to be diverse in how we give," Martinez said. "We want to make sure we help with some

community events, with some education and with general needs or emergency needs."

According to committee members, there is not a specific criteria for organization to be considered for assistance.

"We're not limited by criteria. We've taken all suggestions and prioritized based on how much impact we can have," Tim Buck, Director of Finance said.

Martinez said the application process is simple as providing the information of the organization, what is the need, define who the

money goes to and how the process works.

"Most of our focus has been in the community, not so much globally, said committee member Shelly Penn. "Our funds are limited and we want to see it impacting the communities around us."

Penn said the employees are willing to participate in community events and enjoy volunteering.

"We're here to help. Reach out to us," Martinez said. "While we may not be able to help everyone, we are trying to help as many as we can."

Martinez said Durcon also wants to encourage other businesses to get involved with helping the community.

For more information on the Charitable Contributions Committee, contact any of the committee members or call Durcon at 512-595-8000 and ask for a committee member.

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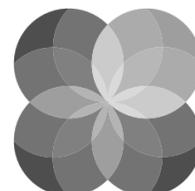
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