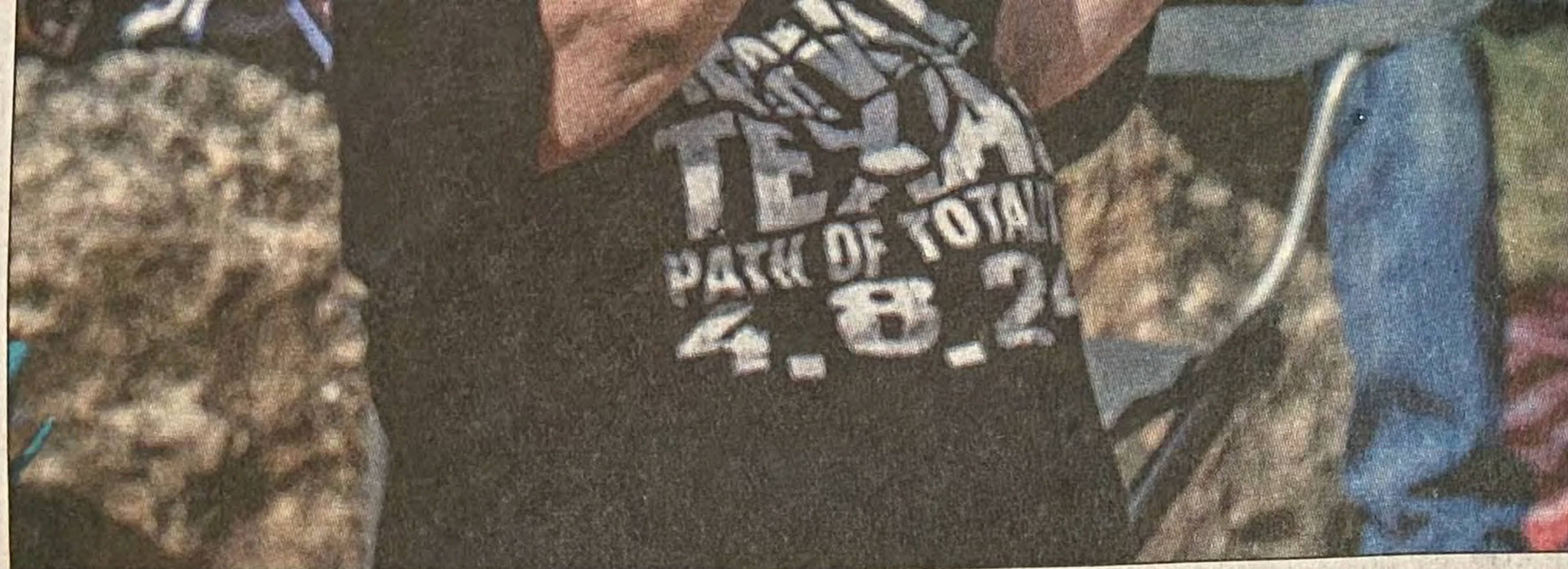


and scrolling down to the city elections or Google Kerrville City Elections May 4, 2024 and it will take you to the same website. City election ballots are tabulated, and results announced through the Kerr County Elections Department.

Early voting begins on Monday, April 22 and voters have until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30 to vote early. Early voting will be from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day except Thursday, April 25 when voting will end at 5 p.m. on that day. There will no voting on the weekend. All early voting will at Cailloux Theater at 910 Main Street. Election Day will be Saturday, May 4 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cailloux Theater.

Two candidates are on the ballot in each of the three council races. Former mayor and current Place 3 Councilmember Joe Herring Jr.



Photos by Tammy Prout

**ANN JAURE, OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO**, (above) has an emotional reaction to the sun peaking through clouds as she awaits the Total Eclipse Monday at Louise Hays Park Monday morning. At top, right, Elijah and his son, 18-month-old Malichi Crosby, of Florida College Station, visit with a friendly turtle named "Olive" on the river trail during the Kerrville Eclipse Festival. At bottom, right, Florida resident Sandy Balfour (center), visits with City Manager Dalton Rice and Mayor Judy Eychner, sharing how impressed she has been with the City of Kerrville's efforts in communicating and protecting guests who traveled from around the world to see the eclipse.

# 'We The People' group facing legal issues

## Attorney issues 'Cease & Desist' on 'Voter Guide,' PAC

By **TAMMY PROUT**  
Publisher

We The People - Liberty in Action, a local political activist group, has been served with a "Cease And Desist" letter from the legal firm of Marziani, Stevens, & Gonzalez PLLC regarding "Distribution of illegal political advertisement" as it pertains to their most recent "Conservative Voter Guide" endorsing

## CEASE & DESIST

candidates in the City of Kerrville Municipal Election, and also challenging the legality of the group's operation as a PAC (Political Action Committee).

The letter addressed to LIA Network, dated April 9, was sent by attorney



Garcia



Ferguson

Beth Stevens, a partner in the Central Texas law firm that specializes in "Legal Counsel to Politically Active Nonprofits, Political Candidates and Texas Elec-

tion Officials on the Full Range of Political Law Matters Arising

Under Texas and Federal Law."

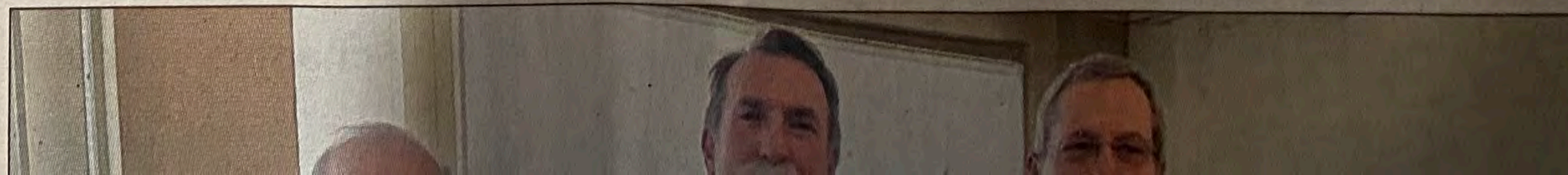
"This letter serves as notice that your recent publication and distribution of political advertising in favor of Roman Garcia, Barbara Dewell Ferguson and Dr. Mary Bone violates Texas law. We demand that you immediately cease and desist from further publication and distribution of these illegal communications," Stevens wrote.

Stevens, who represents Kerrville Forward, a local legally-recognized political action group, explains in the letter that the "Kerr County Conservatives' Trusted

See CEASE, Page 17

# TDW hosts city council candidates

## Garcia, Ferguson decline invitation



iversity campus Saturday morning, April 13.

There is no registration fee, but registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m.

Donation will be accepted that are used to fund the ney Solutions 501(c)3 non-profit organization who assist persons transplant from connecting a p eligible recipi

Local kidney Kent Bressler several years volunteers who helped more

See V

## Raph fills a local

By R

The ded Catholic n Sister Mari establishing health clinic serve adult reside in this who had health i ance

HCGD: Prepare for extreme drought in 2024

See Page 2

John Paul Jones volunteers at Color of Clay

See Page 3

Audiences at P2K's 'Brigade'

See Page 4

# Hill Country COMMUNITY JO

KERRVILLE, TEXAS • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

VOL. 20, NO. 16

## Early voting set to begin April 22 City election

By ROSA LAVENDER  
Staff Writer

The solar eclipse behind us, city officials will hopefully now turn their attention to the upcoming Kerrville City Council elections slated for May. The seats on the council, including the mayor, are on the ballot, along with proposed amendments to the City Charter.

# The clouds part



...while and they expanded their days a little bit to make it twice a week," Vasquez said.

After the sisters realized it was not suitable to continue at the church some of their friends helped them find a more suitable place on Sidney Baker Street where a building owned by Chet Whatley (once a laundromat) was converted to the second location of the clinic.

"The Rotary Club was one of the local organizations that contributed to the purchase of medical equipment for the clinic once we had a more permanent location. We soon

or an emergency room. We do what we can, within our four walls," Vasquez added.

The clinic staff includes administrative personnel, one medical director, one clinic director, two family nurse practitioners, and two medical assistants. Volunteers include three local physicians, LVNs, RNs, and Schreiner University nursing program students.

Today, the clinic offers free non-emergency clinical services to people with no medical insurance who live in Kerr, Bandera, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kimble, or Real

Raphael Clinic services was surprisingly generous with the maximum income for an individual requesting services set at \$43,000 a year currently. The income level goes up as the number of people in the family increases.

He encouraged employers in the community who do not provide health care for their employees to advise the employees about the Raphael Clinic and tell them to stop by and pick up a enrollment packet during the regular clinic hours.

The packet also includes a re-

services to the underserved patients, but also has agreements with Peterson Health and other local medical providers to help with patients that need additional care that the clinic cannot provide. The clinic can now also provide some in-house laboratory services.

The free clinic services offered can include:

- Diabetes treatment and education;
- High Blood Pressure and Cholesterol treatment and education;
- Headache, earache and care for minor ailments;

"drug take-back program" sponsored by the Kerrville Police Department twice a year. Raphael Clinic has the state health department's legal authorization to accept non-narcotic medications collected from the KPD drives, as long as they are not out-of-date and are un-opened. They can accept medications in "blister packs" if only a few were taken and the rest are unused. They can distribute the medications through their on-site dispensary to their patients.

Vasquez said they are always in need of additional volunteers and

able to help complete the application, if needed. Spanish speaking help is also available, if needed.

At the end of the presentation, Vasquez made a surprise announcement. After his two years as the clinic's executive director, he will be returning to his previous career in senior living and working with elderly residents at the Juniper Senior Living locations locally. Vasquez spent the previous 14 years with Brookdale Senior Living, which is now Juniper, before joining the Raphael Clinic staff.

## Cease

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Voter Guide" was distributed on or around March 31, just weeks before early voting was set to begin in the May 4 Election.

"LIA Network distributed via handout the political advertisement attached as Exhibit A. The advertisement contains misleading statements about the offices held by Roman Garcia and Barbara Dewell Ferguson - in violation of state law," Stevens wrote.

According to Stevens, it is against the law in Texas to use misleading statements in political advertisements. Specifically, she said, it is

against the law in Texas to use misleading statements in political advertisements, adding that the Texas Election Code prohibits the "misleading use of office title" which occurs when a political advertisement represents that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold.

Texas Election Code states: "A candidate may not represent that he or she holds an office that he or she does not hold at the time of the representation. If you are not the incumbent in the office you are seeking, you must make it clear that you are seeking election rather than reelection by using the word 'for' to clarify that you don't hold that office. The word 'for' must be at least one-half the type size as the

name of the office and should appear immediately before the name of the office."

"Here, the advertisement says 'Kerrville Mayor: Roman Garcia' - Mr. Garcia does not hold this office. Under state law, the advertisement must include the word 'For' between the candidate's name and the office which he seeks so the reader is not left with the impression that he currently holds the office," Stevens pointed out. "Additionally, the advertisement includes 'Kerrville City Council Member, Place 4: Barbara Dewell Ferguson' - Ms. Ferguson does not hold this office. Thus, the advertisement must include 'For' so as not to mislead the reader into believing she currently holds the position."

Regarding the legality of the formation and activities of LIA Network, who funded the We The People - Liberty in Action "Conservatives Voter Guide," Stevens pointed out consequences for failing legally operate as a group.

"It appears that LIA Network consists of a group of people acting in concert with a principal purpose of accepting political contributions or making political expenditures" to influence local Kerrville races, and that they have raised or spent more than \$1,050 to that effect (or more than 25 percent of their budget). Therefore, this entity should have appointed a treasurer and registered as a PAC with the Texas Ethics Commission. Failure to do so can subject those responsible to both

civil and criminal penalties," Stevens said.

The WTP-LIA distributed "Voter Guide" also endorses and opposes City of Kerrville Charter amendments and lists an endorsement for Dr. Mary Bone, who is in a Republican primary runoff election

against incumbent Tom Maynard, which is set for May 28.

On the official We The People - Liberty In Action Facebook page, the group vowed not to speak to the *Hill Country Community Journal*, so we did not reach out to them for comment.



### BLOOMS & BARRELS SALE IS BACK!

Presented by the Hill Country Master Gardeners

Saturday, April 13, 2024

9:00 am to 1 pm (or sell out)

Hill Country Youth Event Center

3785 TX 27, Kerrville

- Texas Native & Adapted Plants
- Ornamentals, Herbs & Veggies
- 55 Gallon Rain Barrels

Cash or Check Only - ATM on site

Call 830-257-6568

[www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org](http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org)



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[txtree@kcc.com](mailto:txtree@kcc.com)

## Hill Country Chorale

presents

# Music For Animation

Saturday, April 20, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Tucker Hall

320 St. Peter Street

Kerrville, Texas

\$15 at the Door

Children 12 and under \$5

Tickets also online at [www.hillcountrychorale.org](http://www.hillcountrychorale.org)

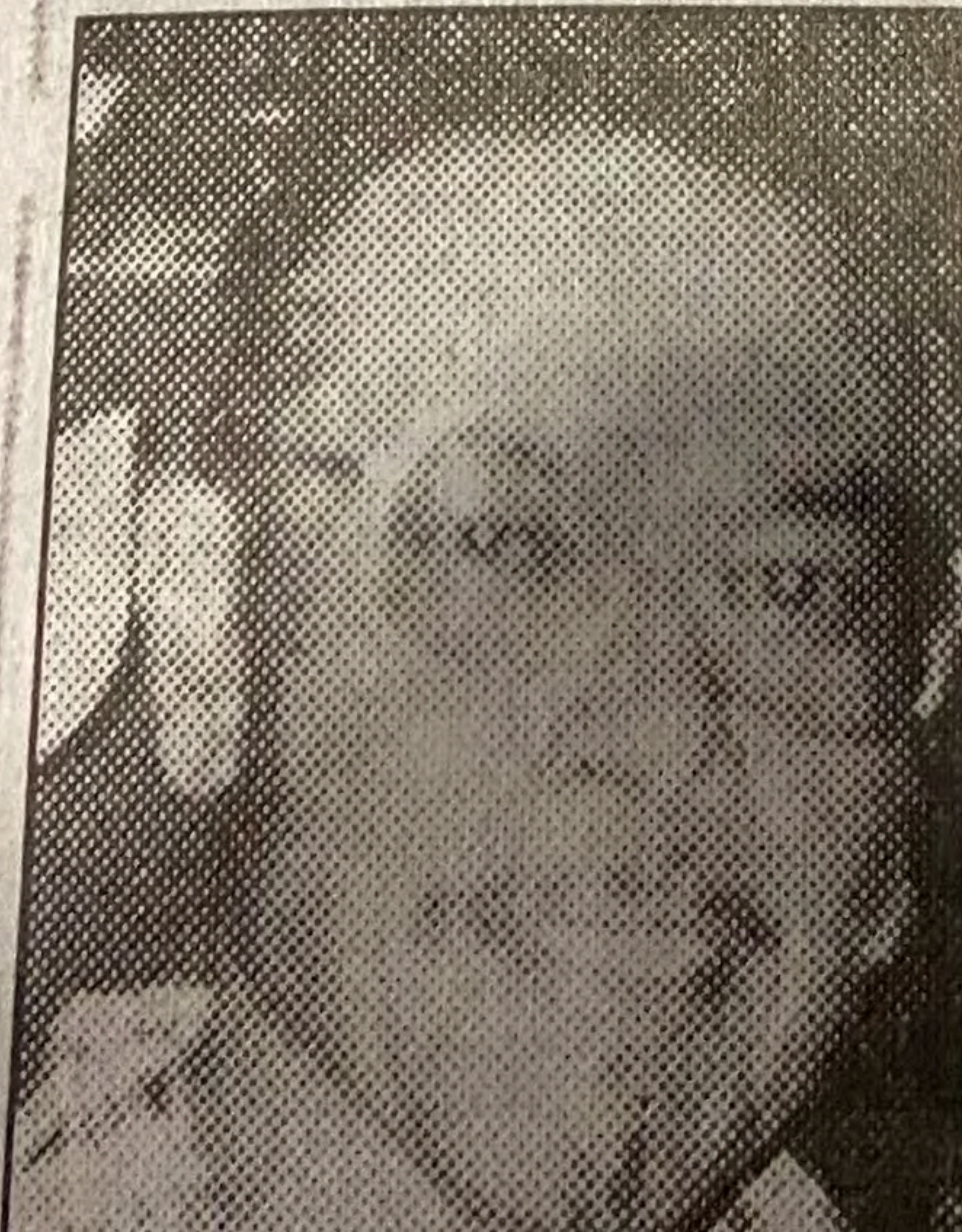
This concert is sponsored by a generous gift from Janna Spurlock

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

# Hill Coun

## CLARENCE "RAT" BENSON

Clarence "Rat" Benson, 89, of Kerrville, Texas, passed away March 31, 2024 in Kerrville.



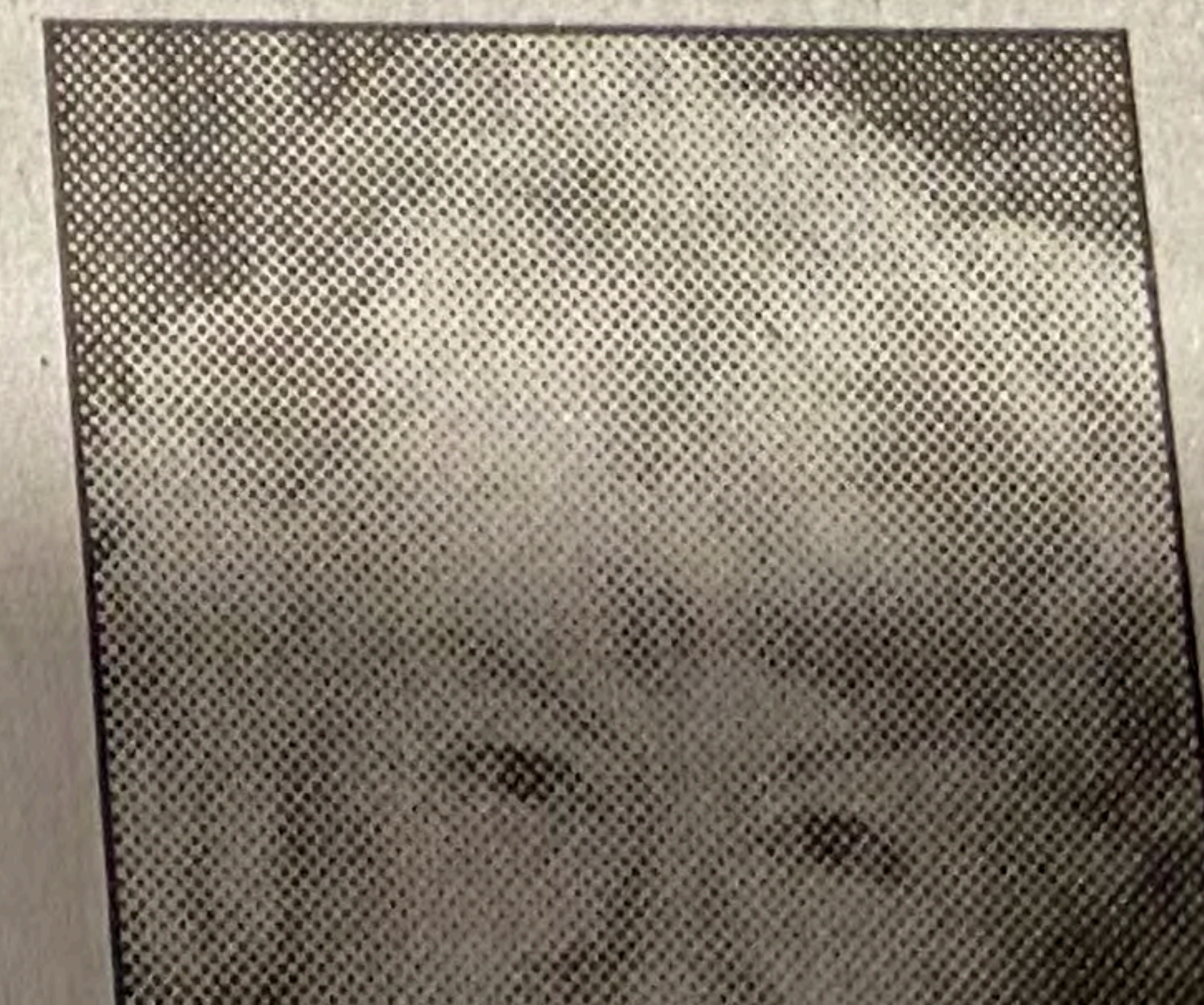
Burial will be held privately.

He was born April 3, 1934 in Comfort, Texas to Bennie and

*Grimes Funeral Chapels  
of Kerrville*

## BEVERLY FLORES

Beverly Flores, 82, of Center Point, Texas passed away on March 10, 2024, in the Hill Country, Texas.



*New  
Awaits*