

September 24, 2014

FROM THE OFFICE OF
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County Eye Newsletter



Top Left - Hall outside the district clerk's office leading to the Law Library on the second floor
Top Right - District Clerk's temporary offices in the Law Library
Bottom - Peeling paint on walls of the county judge's office on the first floor.

Damage to the older portion of the Kerr County Courthouse as a result of a broken water heater in the area of the old jail on the top floor of the building may take months to repair. Most of the serious damage was in the district clerk's office and surrounding areas. Flooring has been removed and ceiling tiles and other damage has been cleaned up but the long-term restoration of the area may take several months, according to District Clerk Robbin Burlew. Her entire office staff has been forced to relocate into the nearby Law Library and into the jury room behind Courtroom 2 in the annex. Luckily no files or computers were compromised by the flooding but the carpet in the clerk's office will need total replacement. Ceiling tiles both inside and outside the office will need to be replaced. The clerk's office was once the district courtroom and was renovated in 2000 when the new courtrooms were completed in the annex. It's business as usual for the staff of the clerk's

office and they continue to provide services to the public and provide support for the district courts, but staffers have had to be flexible and adapt to the situation by relocating their workspace to the alternate locations.

The water also impacted two walls and the carpet in County Judge Tom Pollard's office on the main floor but luckily spared most of the rest of the items in his office area. Water flowed from the second floor down the old steps and into the foyer at the main entrance and out the front door of the building. Stairs to the second floor in the older portion of the courthouse will likely remain closed until the repairs are completed. Minimal damage was also done to two of the old offices in the basement area of the courthouse used for storage of records and by the Kerr County Historical Commission.

Luckily the leak was discovered on Labor Day and by the time workers arrived at work the following morning the cleanup had begun. Insurance adjusters were on scene last week to assess the damage and determine the best course of action to repair the damage and restore the courthouse to pre-event condition.

Fall arrived on Monday and hopefully we will soon enjoy cooler weather and more much needed rain. Market Days return to the courthouse square on Saturday, September 17th.

October will be a busy month with the annual 4-H Wild Game Dinner slated for Saturday, Oct. 4th at the Hill Country Youth Event Center and the 35th Annual Kerr County Fair is slated for the weekend of Oct 24-26 at the HCYEC. If you've never been to the wild game dinner, you should check it out. In addition to serving fresh cooked Axis, Whitetail, Sika, Black Buck and a bit of tamer fares like shrimp and catfish, they have an exceptional raffle, both silent and live, featuring a variety of items. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from several local businesses including Gibson's, Kerrville Ranch and Pet, Double L Feed, and at the Kerr County Extension Office on the grounds of the Hill Country Youth Event Center. They can also be purchased online at kerr.agrilife.org. Proceeds from the wild game dinner are used to fund 4-H programs countywide which promote leadership and help develop youth into outstanding citizens of our county. For more information about the dinner or local 4-H programs contact the Kerr County Extension Office at 830-257-6568.