



# The Kerrville DAILY TIMES



Sunny  
High: 88  
Low: 50

DAILYTIMES.com

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

MUSIC, COMEDY ON STAGE: From country and a capella tunes to a 'Red Hot' comedy classic, find local entertainment for every taste. 1-2C

## Movable walls open new doors for local facility

By Jennifer Reiley  
Features Editor

jennifer.reiley@dailytimes.com

The Hill Country Youth Event Center expo hall can now host a wider variety of events, thanks to the installation of a movable wall.

Members from Global Spectrum, which manages the facility, met Tuesday to learn how to roll out and attach the movable panels of the wall.

Jake Williamson, general manager of the complex, said the installation was part of Kerr County's contract with Global Spectrum when they hired the company in 2015 to run management.

Williamson said the 20,000-square-foot expo hall can now be used for more gatherings of different sizes.

"We can now divide it up," he said. "In essence, I can have smaller groups rent it who would get lost in it if they had the full space."

The Panelfold wall was installed by Kerrville-based Huser Construction. In October, Kerr County commissioners approved a contract for \$134,933 for the wall and installation. Scott Rain, director of

See WALLS, page 6A

## Connecting the past, present

LeMon discusses black history while focusing on character building

Story by Jennifer Reiley, Features Editor • jennifer.reiley@dailytimes.com

Photo by Tom Holden, Photo Editor • photo@dailytimes.com

"The power of one sets things in motion," said Lorraine LeMon, sparking discussion about not only impactful black people but also the current generation.

LeMon gave a presentation for Black History Month to students at Ingram Tom Moore High School on Wednesday. Along with touching on a number of historic figures, she took what they did and related it to the students in the audience.



"There was a black man who created the filament for the light bulb," she said, discussing inventor Lewis Latimer. "You can only imagine what he looked like in the backwoods with no light trying to create light. And he was a slave. Imagine the pressure he was facing, but the pressure is designed to make you, not to break you."

LeMon is the founder of Art2Heart, a local after-school program to teach youths academics, art and character building.

A motto she uses for Art2Heart also was fitting for her presentation: CRAVE — commitment, responsibility, accountability, vision and example.

"I made a commitment as a little girl that I didn't want to be put in jail and say, 'See my dad left me when I was about 3 years old.' I didn't want to be 21 standing before a judge with that line," she said.

LeMon said everyone comes to the planet specifically designed for their time.

She talked about George Washington Carver — one black figure many people know today — and the work he did with peanuts. She talked about other famous black influencers and the differences they made during their own lifetimes.

See HISTORY, page 6A

Local resident and founder of Art2Heart Lorraine LeMon speaks to students at Ingram Tom Moore High School on Wednesday. LeMon spoke in honor of Black History Month, and also encouraged students to turn problems into stepping stones, not stumbling blocks.



Lisa Treiber-Walter/photo@dailytimes.com

Walt Koenig speaks at the first Hill Country Economic Summit, which took place Feb. 16 at Mount Wesley Conference Center. Koenig, who is CEO of the Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce, told attendees that he has found a "can-do attitude in this community that is really unusual and wonderful."

## Kerrville 'poised for growth'

Speakers at first economic summit put focus on area's future

By Lisa Treiber-Walter  
Managing Editor

lisa.walter@dailytimes.com

Kerrville is "poised for growth," according to experts who eyed the local economic landscape for the benefit of a sold-out crowd of more than 200 local business men and women attending the inaugural Hill Country Economic Summit.

Gathering Feb. 16 at the Mount Wesley Conference Center, attendees heard from national economist M. Ray Perryman, as well as former chief state demographer Steve Murdock and Peterson Health President/CEO, Pat Murray. Also providing updates on their agencies were Charlie McIlvain, executive director of the Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau; Brian O'Connor, CEO of the Kerrville Economic Development Corporation; and Walt Koenig, CEO of the Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the event.

"Our economy has some stability," Perryman said.

The pace of growth for Kerr County and Texas, in general, is encouraging as it turns in a "good, solid, steady performance," he said.

"You guys are doing well," Perryman said of the Hill Country region, but added that local businesses need to be ready for the growth that will head this direction,

"You guys are doing well. You are poised for growth. Kerr County is in the middle of the growth corridor and has good leadership to serve it well."

M. Ray Perryman,  
national economist

not only from the San Antonio metropolitan area, but also Austin.

"You are poised for growth," he said. "Kerr County is in the middle of the growth corridor and has good leadership to serve it well."

To recession doomsayers who believe the local economy is headed for a drop because it has now experienced eight years of solid growth, Perryman said: "Not yet."

It's true that most recoveries don't last this long, he relented. But, barring any unanticipated catastrophes — such as 9/11 — or something very unintelligent that Texas does as a state overall, Perryman thinks the area can ride this growth wave for a few more years.

The economy Texas enjoys is revered by other states, Perryman said, saying the state is known as the "Texas miracle."

In fact, Texas' economic status has grown at a rate two to three times faster than the rest of the country, he pointed out. Texas added hundreds of thousands of jobs in the same 58 months others experienced a backslide. "In my opinion, the Texas miracle is what's happening right now," he said.

Texas — now in the middle of an oil bust — has still found a way to add 200,000 jobs.

"That's a huge difference in growth and what that speaks to is that we have a diverse economy," Perryman said, explaining that industries in Texas have grown to be twice as diverse as they were 30 years ago.

Austin has become a tech capital, attracting technology giants to Central Texas, he said, and Texas also has a large health and biomedicine-related industry.

"We are the No. 1 export state in the nation," Perryman said. "We have a huge global market role."

This type of diversity has made Texas resilient, he said.

SAN ANTONIO & BEYOND

"The San Antonio economy has been on an amazing wave these past years," Perryman noted.

See SUMMIT, page 5A

### Index

Classifieds.....5-7C  
Comics .....3B  
Getting Social .....8C

Nation .....2A  
Obituaries.....3A  
Opinion .....4A

Sports.....1-2B  
Television.....4B  
Weather.....3A

### Online



Follow us on Facebook.  
https://www.facebook.com/kerrvilledailytimes

### Subscribe today

To subscribe, call 257-0329 or visit www.dailytimes.com.



6 71260 11111 1

Vol. 106 Issue 302