

Cultural report sparks historic opposition

By CHELSY WOODS KLEIN
For the Courant

More than 50 vocal residents jammed the Clear Creek commissioners’ meeting April 7 to voice concerns about a controversial proposal to expand the number of areas in the county deemed culturally or historically significant.

While the Cultural Resource Committee, which presented its findings to the board, feels it’s important to preserve historical sites, opponents say the historic preserva-

Panel’s findings run up against property-rights concerns

tion would halt economic growth in the county, limit what property owners could do with their land and cost some residents their jobs.

After eight months of study, the committee found there were many places in the county that had not been explored or documented with regard to historical preservation. The extent of its recommendations on April 7 was to suggest

only that the commissioners form another committee that would examine and make decisions regarding what should be considered historical/cultural resources.

“There is no organized way, currently, to determine what cultural resources should be preserved,” said Trent Hyatt,

Please see **CULTURAL PANEL**, Page 12



Photos by MATTHEW JONAS | The Courant

HUNTER HOLMES, top, installs a panel on a geodesic greenhouse being built at Clear Creek High School. Above, sophomore Xander Andrade carries a panel for the exterior.

Going Green

Germ of idea takes root at high school

By DEB HURLEY BROBST
Staff Writer

One small greenhouse at Clear Creek High School has created the opportunity for big collaborations.

The 550-square-foot dome greenhouse was constructed last weekend through the efforts of the school, the Clear Creek 2000 Rotary, Beau Jo’s in Idaho Springs, Albert Frei and Sons, and an Evergreen nonprofit called Global Children’s Gardens.

“We’re getting a full circle,” said Beau Jo’s owner Chip Bair. “This

Please see **GREENHOUSE**, Page 7

Patterson will step down as superintendent due to health

By VICKY GITS
Staff Writer

Clear Creek schools Superintendent Bill Patterson has announced he is resigning effective June 30 to undergo treatment for pancreatic cancer.

The cancer was detected at an unusually early stage, Patterson said. Typically, there are no symptoms, but in his case the tumor interfered with liver function, which caused him to seek medical attention.

“(The doctors) said (the tumor) was fairly large but very well defined and were able to get it all out,” Patterson said. “The answer I get is, ‘Every individual is going to act differently, and the chances are better when the tumor is discovered fairly early.’ ”

The surgery was March 8.

He faces three weeks of chemotherapy beginning April 16, followed by six weeks of radiation.

“They have told me this particular chemo tends to have fewer side effects. So the plan is to continue working until the end of June with a few half-days off,” he said.

He and his family decided he should focus on his health and remove as much stress from his life as possible.

Patterson has been working as an educator for more than 40 years and hopes to continue working a few more years.

“I always knew I would have a shock when I retired because I was always so busy. To stop immediately would be difficult emotionally. This gives me time to finish up a few things,” he said.

Before he came to Clear Creek County, Patterson was superintendent of schools in Indianapolis. He was also principal at Summit County High School for 11 years. He joined the Clear Creek District in June 2008. He grew up in Denver and lives in Littleton.



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