

2 Greystone students headed to West Point

Greystone students Ian Barnes of Sisters, Ore., and Kelly Walsh of Mesa, Ariz., are the first students this year in their class to earn an appointment to one of the five federal service academies. Both students received their appointments to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

As the first students among the 28 in this year's Greystone class to earn their appointments, a sense of reality, achievement and relief comes to not only Barnes and Walsh, but also to their fellow Greystone students who have strived to gain appointments.

Academically, Barnes achieved a 3.73 and Walsh achieved a 3.83 GPA, placing both students on the Schreiner University's President's List.

"I feel honored to be selected as a member of the West Point Class of 2015," said Barnes. "This has been my dream and desire for years. Thanks to Greystone, I can look beyond the academy and see my future as a career Army officer."

"Last year, when I received my rejection letter from the academy, I was devastated until I discovered Greystone," Walsh

said. "This program provided me with a second chance to earn my appointment and has now given me the options and opportunities I need to excel at the academy."

Although the numbers change each year, this year, more than 20,000 young men and women nationwide will apply to each of the three major academies (Army, Navy, Air Force), yet only 1,200 will be selected for appointment. Competition is high and only individuals who meet the selective criteria receive the prestigious academy appointment.

Before a student can receive an academy appointment, their United States Senator or Congressman must nominate him or her. The President and Vice President also nominate candidates to the academies. Barnes was nominated by Congressman David Wu of Oregon, and Walsh was nominated by Congressman Jeff Flake of Arizona.

"We are delighted to commend these two students for their appointments to West Point," said Greystone Executive Director David Bailey said. "Thus far, all Greystone students this year have received at least one nomination, and several

have received multiple nominations. Collectively, they have received more than 50 nominations. We are still hopeful and pulling for 28 appointments for 28 students."

Founded in 1802, West Point has produced great leaders, including Generals Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George S. Patton, Norman Schwarzkopf and David Petraeus. Countless others following military service have had distinguished careers in business, medicine, law, sports, politics and science.

Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University is a unique program that combines intense service academy preparation with a challenging university education for high school graduates committed to earning their appointments to one of the five Federal Service Academies. In the last seven years, 98 percent of all Greystone graduates were accepted into military officer programs and 93 percent of those graduates earned academy appointments.

More information is available at www.greystoneprepschool.org.

Spend your Valentine's at annual Celebration of Love and Marriage

Local couples are invited to join in A Celebration of Love and Marriage — a benefit for New Hope Counseling Center — at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12.

The event will feature dinner, a dance and a raffle with a grand prize of a seven-night Royal Caribbean cruise.

Proceeds from the event and from the sale of raffle tickets will go to fund New Hope's Assistance Fund, which covers all or part of the cost of counseling for individuals, couples and families without the means to pay.

"Strong communities bring with strong families, which, in turn, are anchored by couples who are committed to their marriage," said a spokesman for New Hope Counseling Center. "Sometimes some outside help is needed to keep commitment strong — a benefit not only to the family but to the community."

A Celebration of Love and Marriage will take place in the South Grand Ballroom at the Inn of the Hills. Dinner and dance tickets are \$30 each. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25.

Tickets for the event and the raffle are available from the event sponsors: New Hope Counseling Center 616 Barnett St. and The Kerrville Daily Times, 429 Jefferson St.

For more information, call New Hope Counseling Center at 257-3009.

We want your love stories

To enter: In 250 to 300 words, tell us about your proposal, how you met, maybe your most romantic story or about your best Valentine's Day. Send it to the Times by e-mail, news@dailytimes.com; fax, 895-4060; or by dropping it off at the front desk, 429 Jefferson St.

Please send a photo along with your story, and include a phone number where you may be contacted.

In your submission: Make sure to note how long you have been married.

Make the paper: Randomly selected stories will be printed in The Times. The winners will be invited to the Feb. 12 Celebration of Love & Marriage and be featured in the Feb. 14 edition of The Times.

Get started: Deadline for entries is Friday, Feb. 4.

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In that same block, the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center, a market value of about \$706,000, and the Schreiner Mansion, now owned by Schreiner University, also are tax exempt. Comer said the mansion didn't have a value on the district since it has been exempt from taxes for so long and because there is little to base it on since the district uses sales of similar properties to determine market value.

"We haven't had any sales in the last three or four years to even know what it's doing," Comer said.

The portion of that block that is taxable today is the former Schreiner Department Store, given a market value of about \$1.2 million. That store actually is multiple buildings built over many years and is now owned by the Cailloux Foundation.

Foundation assistant executive director Ben Modisett has said the plan is to rent space in the buildings for retail, offices and restaurants. According to Coates, because the nonprofit foundation would make revenue off the leases, the buildings would remain on the tax rolls.

Across Water Street, most of

the buildings along the river are privately owned and on the tax rolls except the Kerrville Main Street building at 715 Water St. The city-owned property was recently advertised for sale by the city. It has a market value of \$129,000, according to appraisal district.

The properties east of Earl Garrett Street from Water to Main Street also are mostly privately owned as are most the block between Earl Garrett and Washington streets also are taxable, ranging in value from \$133,000 to \$600,000. The block between Washington Street and Tivy Street is almost entirely

owned by Notre Dame Catholic Church and also is exempt.

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and health services, professional and business services and retail trade each gave us a recovering boost."

The Texas unadjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8 percent in December, down from 8.3 percent in November, while the nation's unadjusted unemployment rate also decreased to 9.1 percent in

December, down from 9.3 percent reported in November.

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