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Downtown properties avoid tax auction

Dave Ryan/Special to the Enterprise

An aerial photo of downtown Beaumont in the mid-1950s. Ten properties owned by Tom Flanagan were being included in an upcoming sheriff's auction due to delinquent taxes but Tax Assessor Kate Carroll says Flanagan has met payment terms to remove the properties from auction.

The 10 properties are owned by prominent building owner Tom Flanagan

By Tessa Noble
STAFF WRITER

Ten properties owned by downtown building owner Tom Flanagan were included in the sheriff's auction for delinquent taxes, but have now been paid.

Tax Assessor Kate Carroll said 10 properties owned by Flanagan were scheduled for sale at the Dec. 1 sheriff's auction. The properties included:

- 595 Orleans St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 535 Stadium Road, Port Arthur, TX 77642-1305
- 470 Orleans St, Beaumont, TX 77701-3000
- 500 Crockett St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 390 Park St, Beaumont, TX 77701-2995
- 600 Park St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 630 Fannin St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 604 Park St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 680 Park St, Beaumont, TX 77701
- 528 Forsythe, Beaumont, TX 77701

Online tax records show $37,063.06 in current-year taxes and $156,830.28 in prior-year taxes were owed on the properties, for a total balance of $193,893.34. Carroll said Flanagan would need to make a 50% down payment and establish a 12-month payment plan to remove the properties from the sale. Carroll said the office sometimes offers other arrangements, but because of Flanagan's previous payment issues, these are the terms available to him.

"It's different for different people because if you've never had a payment agreement before and you have been an upstanding citizen and you get yourself into trouble we'll allow for up to 36 months and a 20% down," Carroll said. "But in situations where it's a consistent back and forth, we're try-

Downtown continues on A3

"These are historic buildings, and it's sad to see them crumbling."

Kate Carroll, Tax Assessor

GOP women's group behind fake transgender mailer campaign

By Benjamin Wermund and John C Moritz
STAFF WRITER

A Republican women's group is behind a fake Texas transgender student union that sent text messages and brochures to as many as 3 million voters this month.

The Republican Women's Caucus Fund and someone named John Braun were identified as those responsible for the scheme that riled up voters just as early voting began, according to legal filings made public late Thursday. The identities were ordered to be revealed by a Travis County judge.

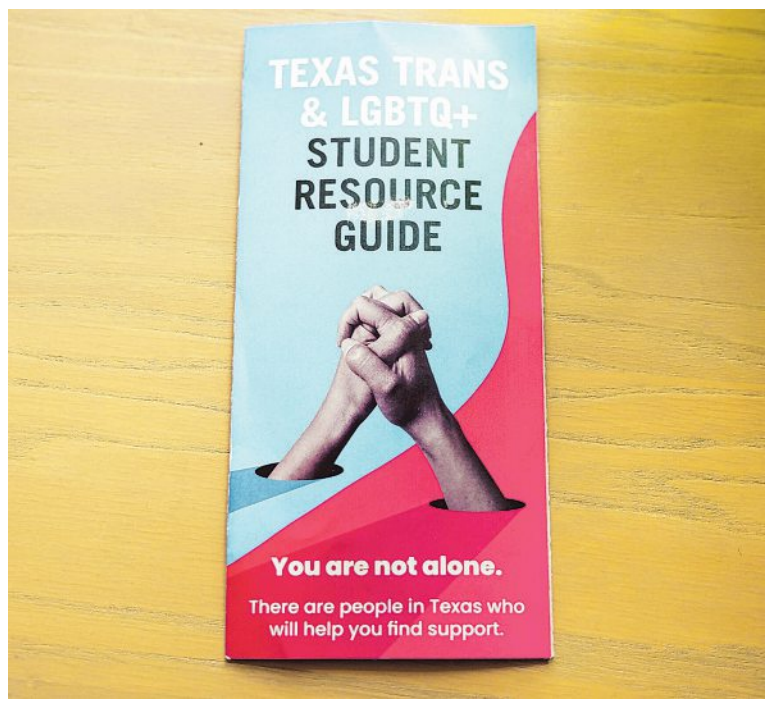
The RWC Fund is the political wing of a group of Republican women in the U.S. House and Senate. It was not immediately clear who Braun was. The Texas Observer, which first reported the names, noted that John Braun is the name of a Washington state senator running for Congress. His campaign lists as its treasurer Paul Kilgore, who is also the treasurer for RWC Fund, as well as for two political action committees — the Senate Conservatives Fund and its super PAC Senate Conservatives Action — that have supported Attorney General Ken Paxton's U.S. Senate campaign.

Neither the RWC Fund, Braun or Kilgore could be immediately reached for comment.

Civil district court Judge Jan Soifer had ruled on Wednesday that a real advocacy group named in the campaign, the Transgender Education Network of Texas, or TENT, had no role in it and is "suffering injuries, including harassment, threats, diversion of resources, and frustration of operations" as a result.

The messages, which went out just days before early voting began in the midterm elections, were sent by an organization

Mailer continues on A3



Juan Figueroa/Dallas Morning News

The Republican Women's Caucus Fund and a John Braun were identified in court filings as part of a scheme involving a fake Texas transgender student union.

Suspect sought in shooting

Warrant issued for 18-year-old Jayden Hunter

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

Beaumont Police have an arrest warrant in connection to a shooting.

Police are searching for 18-year-old Jayden Hunter who has an arrest warrant out for aggravated assault, in relation to the shooting.

Jayden Hunter

Around 3:04 a.m. on Monday, Beaumont Police went to the 100 block of Alabama Avenue because of a shooting. When officers arrived, they found a person inside an apartment with gunshot wounds to both legs, according to Beaumont Police spokesperson DeAnna Wiltz.

Officers immediately rendered emergency medical aid until EMS arrived. The victim was taken to a local hospital and is listed in stable condition, Wiltz said. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding Hunter's wearabouts, or the incident, is urged to contact the Beaumont Police Department at 409-832-1234, or Crime Stoppers at 409-222-8477. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through theP3. Tips App on your smartphone. All Crime Stoppers tips remain anonymous and tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward if the information leads to an arrest.

Woman found dead at city motel

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

Beaumont police are investigating a homicide at a motel.

About 1:35 a.m. Tuesday, Beaumont police went to the Midtown Inn, 1295 N. 11th St., after a woman was found dead, according to Beaumont police spokesperson DeAnna Wiltz.

When officers arrived, they found the woman dead inside a motel room.

Detectives with the Beaumont Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division are investigating the death as a homicide because of the circumstances of the discovery, Wiltz said.

Evidence continues to be collected as part of the investigation. An autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause and manner of death.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Beaumont Police Department at 409-832-1234 or Southeast Texas Crime Stoppers at 409-833-8477. Tips may also be submitted through the P3 Tips app. Tips remain anonymous, and tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward.

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