



Hill Country Builders Association's Wine Country Division made a \$2,000 donation last Thursday to Fredericksburg High School's Building Trades program. Pictured are, front row, from left, Jayne Mortensen, HCBA executive director; Richard Laughlin, Laughlin Homes and Restoration, and Wine Country Division president; Dr. Eric Wright, Fredericksburg Independent School District superintendent; Todd Eidson, Sierra Homes; Eileen Parsons, Vista

Verde Builders, Kerrville and Guadalupe River Division president; back row, Chad Boenosch, operations manager, Moore Supply in Fredericksburg; Aaron Hominick, Hominick Custom Builders and vice president of the Wine Country Division; Greg Mohr, contractor sales, Pro-Build; David Fransik, Sierra Homes; Matthew Schumann, owner of Schumann Granite; and Kevin Kendrick, owner of Braunbach Granite. — Standard-Radio Post/Richard Zowie

HCBA division donates to FHS trades program

By Richard Zowie

A donation from the Hill Country Builders Association's Wine Country Division will help a Fredericksburg High School department improve its program.

Jayne Mortensen, executive director of HCBA, and Richard Laughlin of Laughlin Homes and Restoration (and Wine Country Division president) presented the \$2,000 check last Thursday to Fredericksburg Independent School District Supt. Dr. Eric Wright.

The funds will be used for the FHS Building Trades program.

"Bolstering a program that is multi-dimensional will help to bring more students to the program," Mortensen said. "Our dollars will be used in outreach, specialty equipment, competitions and potentially

work study cost offsets for employers."

Fundraising events began last year and will continue annually to support this program, Mortensen added.

The wine country division also is partnering with the FHS Building Trades program to establish a location-based support network for work study, mentoring and general trades school marketing.

Mortensen added that, according to informal surveys within HCBA, there is a one-third shortfall in the trades needed to meet existing new construction and remodeling.

"Plumbers and electricians are specifically needed, as well as more general carpentry trades," she said.

Wright encouraged students interested in the trades to consider pursuing a field within it as a possible profession.

"It is an excellent opportu-

nity for those wishing to learn a skilled trade to make a great living and give back to the community via their specified trade," he said.

Wright added that the state legislature had removed the trades as a viable career path when they required a "one size fits all" curriculum that tried to point all students to a four-year college degree.

"With the adoption of House Bill 5, we now have an opportunity to right the ship," Wright said. "Therefore, it is imperative that we make students aware of the great opportunities that exist within the trades."

The HCBA has more than 350 members, and its volunteer board consists of local builders, remodelers, developers, contractors, trades, suppliers and vendors.

For more information, go to www.hillcountrybuilders.org.