



Ami Feller works on a customer's roof in New Braunfels on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. MIKALA COMPTON | Herald-Zeitung

**ZONING**

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"I could honestly say anything else in this industry requires the ability to troubleshoot and women are able to see the bigger picture and tend to pay more attention to detail and are a lot more in tune to people," Ousaklidis said. "When working with customers, they pick up on subtle cues maybe a man wouldn't."

**Growing numbers**

Ousaklidis said she applauds Ami Feller, owner of Feller Roofing in New Braunfels, for having a women-only crew and a crew of men and women. "I really wish there was a better representation of the strong will, technically-inclined women that could really excel in this industry," Ousaklidis said. Feller said she hopes to recruit more employees

to her four-woman team, noting most recruiters are men.

"I think it definitely opens the door to women that they don't necessarily think about," Feller said. "And there's money to be made. There isn't as much preparatory training as involved like trade skills like HVAC and plumbing and there's no education requirements."

Feller uploaded a recruiting video this week and opened applications on the Feller Roofing Facebook page.

She recruited several crew members by posting in the "Moms of New Braunfels" Facebook group which gathered much support.

She has two crews, one she wants to be all women and which has four members and needs two more. The second consists of both men and women.

"It's hard work and it also takes the right person with the right mindset," Feller

said. Crew leader Sarah Fritz, 27, said she loves roofing for its intricacies and being outdoors.

"I love it. I found my calling in life so that's pretty awesome," Fritz said. "Sometimes you get a house by a lake and it's just so beautiful. The work itself is interesting, there's something new with every single roof like a puzzle and I love working with a bunch of women."

Coming from the restaurant industry as a cook, Fritz said she was used to working in the kitchen with men. She also said anyone can enter this industry and hopes more women join.

"It's awesome. I can relate to women and men but there's something special having that female bond that's already there, it's a community of support," Fritz said. "It just takes some dedication, some hard work and the ability to realize you've got a lot to learn and all that good

stuff."

Feller started her business several years ago after working for her brother's roofing company.

The two made a business together and then split, with Feller in New Braunfels and her brother's company, Kanga Roof, in Round Rock.

Ousaklidis said she hopes more people, in general, join the trade industries.

She hopes to start a trade school scholarship in Yanni's name.

"You can have a doctor or a neurosurgeon and put them in front of a car or a broken piece of carpentry and not know what they're going to do with it — like how — I would not know how to restructure somebody's heart," Ousaklidis said. "Many people are pushed into college degrees where they can't make money or the industry is so saturated it's competitive. That's where trade comes in."

# Bulky goods drop-off set for Saturday

By Steve Knight  
The Herald-Zeitung

Time to get rid of those unwanted couches, mattresses and tables.

The city of New Braunfels plans to host a bulky goods drop-off event from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday. The last vehicle in line at 11 a.m. will be the last one assisted.

Officials ask residents who wish to drop off items to wait in their vehicle for materials to be unloaded and wear a mask during interactions with staff.

Residents can drop off items at the following city-operated sites:

■ City Municipal Building, 424 S. Castell Ave.

■ Comal County Goodwin Annex, 1297 Church Hill Drive

■ City Hall, 550 Landa St.

■ Walnut Springs Elementary School, 1900 S. Walnut Ave.

All locations require residents to bring a current New Braunfels Utilities/Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative bill and a valid state-issued photo ID to participate.

Participants can bring a maximum of five household, oversized trash items and up to four whole passenger car tires without rims at city sites.

Each household is allowed one load per event. Items accepted at city-operated sites include non-metal items that are larger in weight or dimension than allowable in a curbside trash cart.

Examples of items that often meet those criteria include furniture items, such as mattresses, chairs, couches, bed frames, bookcases, and tables, as well as kiddie pools, storage bins and high-volume ice chests.

Metal items and materials generated from construction, demolition and remodeling debris are not

accepted at city-operated sites. Prohibited items include appliances, green waste (leaves, branches and twigs), bagged or commercial garbage, lumber, tile, carpeting, drywall, flooring, pallets, electronics, and hazardous waste.

Blown-out, partial, motorcycle, ATV, and lawn mower tires are also prohibited.

Residents can also utilize Mesquite Creek Landfill at 1700 Kohlenberg Lane.

At the landfill, which is operated by Waste Management, all vehicle occupants must wear a safety vest, no tires or appliances are accepted and all trailers must go to the landfill and must be covered with a tarp.

For additional information about Mesquite Creek Landfill, call 830-625-7894.

The City Recycle Center accepts large scrap metal items such as a water heater, chain-link fencing, a BBQ grill, and metal appliances without Freon, such as a clothes washer or dryer. The center is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The center is closed on Sundays, Mondays and city holidays.

Residents can find further information on the City Recycle Center at [www.nbtexas.org/recyclecenter](http://www.nbtexas.org/recyclecenter).

For items that are not accepted at a bulky goods drop-off site or for residents who are unable to transport to a site, the city offers curbside bulk pick-up appointments.

For fees and service availability, contact the city's Solid Waste and Recycling Division at 830-221-4040.

For more information on the bulky goods drop-off event, visit [www.nbtexas.org/bulkygoods](http://www.nbtexas.org/bulkygoods).

## Pope, citing pandemic effect, cuts pay for cardinals, others

By Frances D'emilio  
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Trying to save jobs as the pandemic pummels Vatican revenues, Pope Francis has ordered pay cuts for cardinals and other clerics, as well as nuns, who work at the Holy See. In a decree published online Wednesday by the Vatican's official newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Francis said that

starting in April cardinals' salaries will be reduced 10%. Superiors of the Holy See's various departments, who, with few exceptions, are clerics, will be hit by 8% cuts while lower-ranking priests and nuns will see 3% vanish from their paychecks.

In the decree he signed on Tuesday, the pope noted that the Holy See's finances have been marked by several years of deficit.

Worsening those financial woes, the pope wrote, was the COVID-19 pandemic, "which has impacted negatively on all the sources of revenue of the Holy See and Vatican City State."

The belt-tightening "has the aim of saving current job positions," Francis wrote. Lower-ranking lay-workers at the Vatican aren't affected by the salary reductions, but their pay raises, due

every two years, are being temporarily frozen under the austerity measures. The lowest-paid lay workers will still get raise, though.

Bans on tourism by many countries and other pandemic restrictions have severely reduced revenues.



**BEHIND THE SHIELD**

During this Lenten season, help us feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, provide hope where it is needed and share God's love with others.

Please consider making a special Easter donation today. Your generosity will show someone in need that there is still kindness, hope and compassion in the world.

May God bless you for your compassionate spirit and generous heart. Have a blessed Easter.

Please donate to the COVID-19 relief efforts at [SalvationArmyNBTX.org](http://SalvationArmyNBTX.org)



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