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Free Public Screening of *Center Point: Strength and Renewal* set for July 7 at Center Point High School Gymnasium

Extended documentary was created specifically for Center Point and the Kerr County community as a tribute to victims, survivors, first responders, and volunteers near the first anniversary of the Guadalupe River floods

CENTER POINT, Texas — *Center Point: Strength and Renewal*, an extended documentary film about the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department and the community response to the Guadalupe River floods, will be shown Monday, July 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Center Point High School Gymnasium. The screening is free and open to the public. This will be the first public showing of any version of the documentary, and the extended cut was created specifically for the residents of Center Point and the Kerr County community as a tribute to the victims, survivors, first responders, volunteers, and neighbors who made a difference during and after the floods.

The film arrives near the first anniversary of the Guadalupe River floods, a time when many families and communities across the Texas Hill Country will be remembering what happened and reliving difficult emotions. Rather than frame the event as a red-carpet premiere, the July 7 screening is intended as a community gathering, a moment of remembrance, and a way for the story to return to the people and place at the heart of the film.

“This version of the film was made to come home,” said director Rusty Baker. “It was created for Center Point and Kerr County first. The purpose is to honor the victims, stand with the survivors, and recognize these firefighters who got out there and made a difference when their community needed them most.”

Unlike broader disaster coverage or other flood-related documentaries, *Center Point: Strength and Renewal* focuses specifically on Center Point and the volunteer firefighters who answered the call from within their own community. The extended cut of the film offers a deeper inside look at the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department, the people behind the emergency response, and the emotional weight carried by first responders in a small Hill Country town.

The extended cut was developed from a shorter documentary produced through the University of North Texas MFA Documentary Production and Studies program. The shorter 16-minute version is currently being submitted to Texas film festivals only, but the extended version was created so Kerr County residents could experience a fuller, more personal version of the story as close as possible to the first anniversary of the floods.

“If you’re looking for a film that points fingers or assigns blame...this isn’t it,” Baker said. “It is not an agenda piece. It is a story about service and sacrifice,

preparation and response, and the quiet strength of a small Texas community. Center Point is a small town, but the story is not small.”

For San Antonio and South Texas audiences, the film offers a regional look at the realities faced by Hill Country communities during extreme flood events, particularly in rural and unincorporated areas where volunteer fire departments often carry the first burden of response. While the story is rooted in Center Point, its themes reach across the region: service, loss, resilience, and the responsibility of remembering.

Baker, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major, former combat photojournalist, and MFA documentary filmmaker at the University of North Texas, said his goal was to preserve the human story behind the response without sensationalizing the tragedy.

Center Point: Strength and Renewal documents a community changed by floodwaters but not defined by them. The July 7 screening gives the film back to the people it was made for.

Screening Details

Film: *Center Point: Strength and Renewal*

Date: Monday, July 7

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Center Point High School Gymnasium

Admission: Free and open to the public

About the Film

Center Point: Strength and Renewal is a Texas documentary film directed by Rusty Baker. The extended version was created specifically for the residents of Center Point and the Kerr County community as a tribute to the victims, survivors, first responders, volunteers, and neighbors affected by the Guadalupe River floods. A shorter 16-minute version, produced through the University of North Texas MFA Documentary Production and Studies program, is currently being submitted to Texas film festivals only.

About the Director

Rusty Baker is a Texas documentary filmmaker, retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major, former combat photojournalist, and MFA student in Documentary Production and Studies at the University of North Texas. His work focuses on service, memory, community, resilience, and the people who step forward during moments of crisis.

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