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 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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New County Officials Sworn In January 1

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times
 On Thursday, January 1, at 9 a.m. in the Waller County Courthouse, an official Swearing-In Ceremony was held in the District Courtroom on the third floor.
 District Judge Albert "Buddy" McCaig opened the ceremony with a prayer, followed by Commissioner Stan Kitzman leading those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
 First to be sworn into office was Waller County Judge Trey Duhon, who was given the oath of office by Judge McCaig. Afterwards, Duhon's first official act as judge was to administer the oath of office to District Attorney Elton Mathis.
 Other officials to take the official oath of office were: County Court at Law Judge June Jackson; District



District Judge Albert M. McCaig (right) administers the oath of office to Waller County Judge Trey Duhon (left) as wife Lisa Duhon looks on (center). Photo credit: Carrie Prazak-Gourley, The Waller Times.



Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Delores Hargrave (shown) was sworn in by Waller County Pct. 2 Court Annex Clerk Sharon Riemer (not shown). The swearing-in was held at the Court Annex in Field Store on January 1, 2015. Submitted photo.

Will We Soon be Snow Skiing in Texas?

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times
 The city council of Grand Prairie, Texas, located in the Dallas metro area, will be voting in January on a grand plan for the city's entertainment district, building the nation's first snow dome.
 The proposal is for council to approve a plan to allow Grand Alps Resort to be built in the city's designated entertainment district. The resort is to have seven slopes open year-round, a snowboard course, tubing, and a Hard Rock Hotel, and the entire complex would cover about 60 acres. Similar snow domes already exist in Spain, Brazil, England, Norway, and Dubai.
 The Snow Dome is slated to be the most advanced indoor snow center in the world. The facility is 1,200' in length, 570' wide and just under 300' tall and would feature the longest indoor ski run in the world. Multiple ski runs would accommodate beginner, intermediate, and expert skiers. The center also includes a snow play area, tobogganing, and a luge track with a winter wonderland for all ages.
 Mayor Tenson of Grand Prairie has stated that raising the money, which will come from private sources, won't be easy, but the mayor is cautiously optimistic, giving the project a 50-50 chance of coming to fruition.
 Sherman Thurston, President of the Grand Alps Group, tasked with developing the resort, hopes to hold a groundbreaking in May and if the project proceeds, estimates a grand opening in 2017.



Pictured is a snow dome located in Spain. Grand Prairie, Texas, near Dallas, will be voting this month on whether to build a 60-acre snow dome in that city. Internet photo.

Lois W. Kolkhorst Takes Oath of Office as Senator

On January 1, 2015, Lois W. Kolkhorst took the oath to become officially sworn in as Senator for District 18. The ceremony took place in the Senate Chamber of the Texas Capitol in front of a packed gallery of over 400 supporters. The oath of office was administered by Attorney General and Governor-elect Greg Abbott. United States Congressman Michael McCaul of Texas' 10th District served as the Master of Ceremonies.
 "Today is not about me but rather it's really about the people all across our Senate district. I'm honored to serve them and I'm ready to deliver the results they expect and deserve. As State Senator, my goals will be simple. I'm going to work hard to protect and preserve the rights of hardworking families and businesses across these twenty-one counties," Kolkhorst said. "Texas is an exemplar of freedom, jobs and prosperity and my intention is to keep our state strong and free for our children and grandchildren."



On January 1, 2015, Lois W. Kolkhorst (shown with her family) took the oath to become officially sworn in as Senator for District 18, which includes Waller County. Submitted photo.

Senator Kolkhorst won the special election for Senate District 18 to succeed former Senator and Comptroller-Elect Glenn Hegar on December 6th with 55.69 percent of the vote, thus avoiding a runoff. Senate District 18 includes all or parts of 21 counties including Aransas, Austin, Burleson, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, Victoria, Waller, Washington, and Wharton.
 With Senator Kolkhorst being sworn into the Senate District 18 seat, a vacancy has now been created in her current House District 13 seat. An election to fill that vacancy will be called by Governor Rick Perry.
 Senator Kolkhorst and her husband Jim have been married for 27 years and have two children, Lois Kate and Jake. Senator Kolkhorst has been the State Representative for House District 13 for 14 years and formerly served as Chair of the House Committee on Public Health.

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Waller Wonders - *What's new for 2015?*

By NANCY ARNOLD



As the ball starts dropping at Times Square every year, the nearer the count gets to ONE! the nearer we get to a spate of new laws. That ... and breaking our new year resolutions ... is a sure thing.

So, let's see what the package of 2015 new laws brought us. Texas, for once, didn't really have any nutty laws this year, although some states did. I'll get to those in a minute.

There's a list, but these three all make sense. In no particular order:

Judges in Texas are legally barred from having any financial interest in correctional facilities.

This is meant to stop conflicts of interest. I couldn't find evidence that any Texas judges previously had such financial interest, so I don't know what prompted the measure. Nevertheless, it's now law, so there.

The State Board of Education has to certify six career and technology classes that will satisfy high school students' math graduation credits. Considering that other countries are moping up our kids in math and science, that's probably a good idea. But then I'm not a high school student or a student's parent, so I don't really have a dog in that fight.

Here's one that has to do with motorcycles, and it came about because of a tragedy. Motorcycles are now required to have hand holds and foot pegs if they are designed to carry a passenger. Known as Malorie's Law, named for Malorie Bullock, who died when she was thrown from the back of a teenager's bike while going around a sharp curve.

Ah, but now let's look at some laws from other states. Let's start with California.

Los Gatos bans gasoline leaf blowers in the town because they "degrade quality of life... by polluting the air, posing multiple

health risks for operators and residents, generating high noise levels, and disrupting neighborhood tranquility. No mention of lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and the like.

Throughout the state plastic bags are now banned from use in stores, unless they contain fruits, vegetables, or meats. That's sensible. If you aren't buying any of those items, and you don't bring your reusable bags, you'll be charged ten cents per bag.

Several other states, and many cities across the country, have similar laws. I do use my own bags ... but how often do I forget them and wind up buying another bag or two?

Let's head up the coast to Oregon, where sellers of foreclosed homes now much tell potential buyers if there's a possibility that the home was used as a meth lab.

Right. They were foreclosed on (and kicked out) because they didn't pay their mortgage, which will already make them cranky. So naturally they are going to share with the person who is buying the home - not from them but from the bank - that they were running a meth lab out of the "spacious upstairs media room." Again, I have no idea what lead to this law,

but I'm wondering what the consequences will be for not telling. They are already in trouble, and I doubt if they want to compound their problems.

In North Carolina, anyone placed on probation or sentenced for impaired driving on or after January 1, 2015 will serve a sentence in a local confinement facility (not the state prison). Isn't that called "jail"?

You'll be happy to know that lawmakers in Illinois found it necessary to memorialize a definition for milk. It is to include the "milk of cows, or goats, sheep, water buffalo, or other hooved mammals." Water buffalo. Are there many of those in Illinois?

Moving on to New York. Don't even THINK about taking a selfie (a picture you take of yourself by holding your phone "waaaaay out in front of you) with a big cat - lion, tiger, leopard, etc. as your photo buddy. Apparently there have been some "situations" where people got hurt ... ya think? So now it's illegal.

We'll wrap up our "new laws" symposium with our next-door neighbor - Louisiana. Starting this week, 16- and 17-year-olds can now register to vote. They can't actually, you know, VOTE, but

they can register. Does this mean that Louisiana will now have even fewer registered voters actually voting? Or, will they have some method of not counting certain registered voters?

Ponder on that while I give you the official IRS mileage rates for 2015. Business rates: 57.5 cents per mile; charitable rates: 14 cents per mile; medical and moving: 23 cents per mile.

Birthdays coming up next week for Rhondee Damon, Tyrone Tolder and his mama, Jeannette Jessie, Heather Haynes, Nicholas Plemper, Colt Haack, Robert Lesikar, Wesley Travis Glueck, Alicen Green, Savannah Bellard, Joe Grant, Brian Schild, Larry Smith, Ginger Mosley, Bryan Stinnett, Oscar H. Oliver, Jr., Tammy Sherrill, Gabriella Gray, Brian Reiten, Evelyn Taylor, Johnathan Tyler Schild, Matthew Stahman, Rae Lea Avila, Nathan Wilkinson, Natalie Wilkinson, Karl Moen, Lynna Wischnewsky, Dorothy Worrell, Betty Wedeking, Andy Colunga, Derek Eckermann, James (Cliff) Smith, racing legend A. J. Foyt, Jr., Michael Taylor, Jim Heath, Ariel Chesson, Christa Sandoval, Mary Curtis, Lane Thomas Magnus, and Pam Quast.

Happy anniversary to Rick

and Stephanie Dalton, and Fred and Evelyn Taylor.

Because I am a magazine editor, I get all kinds of press releases, most of them pretty interesting. Here's one about a product that came in a little too late for Christmas 2014, but keep it in mind for this coming Christmas - wireless Christmas lights.

Designed for anyone who's "tired of untangling wires of their Christmas lights every year" (that would be ALL of us, right?), these lights seem to be just what we need. The company, Aura LLC, claims these lights are safer because they eliminate the potential fire hazards of traditional Christmas lights. Made with LEDs, which produce close to zero heat, the apparatus, called a Power Ring, powers up to 100 wireless lights, which are hung on the tree like ornaments.

The Aura ornaments are Smartphone accessible and controlled. You select Wi-Fi when you buy the ornaments, and then use your Smartphone to turn it on or off, set lighting schedules, timers, and more.

This nifty little item is supposed to come out in October 2015 - if the company can get

See ARNOLD page 1B

Newspapers Key to the Survival of Our Republic

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY



Newspapers across our nation are an integral part of American society, and an absolute necessity to the survival of our democratic republic.

In the summer of 1787, the nation's most influential lawyers, generals, and land or business owners gathered in Philadelphia with a single purpose: To create a government that was ruled by the people instead of one that ruled them.

A cornerstone of this fledgling democracy was the unique privilege and responsibility of every citizen to be engaged in government through voting, participating in public offices, and by being well informed.

For our society to succeed, it must be well-educated in the foundations of our government and in the duties of citizenship. Our free press, protected by the Constitution, plays a critical role in ensuring

that every single American has access to important and trustworthy news.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer that latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them."

Newspapers are still an integral part of informing the public, particularly on the local and state level.

First and foremost, a newspaper's sacred duty is to report on government, its power, and how those vested with that power ultimately use it. Newspapers are uniquely suited to press the government--and the public servants who run it--to maintain its responsibility to the people. Papers seek to ask tough questions of our leaders, in a necessary adversarial role, so they remain accountable to the people they serve.

TV news, unlike newspapers,

lacks space, time and the depth to focus on providing enough coverage of a story, and generally just skims the surface. If one relies on World News Tonight, which delivers the news of the whole world in less than 20 minutes, expect to be one of the "low information voters" often referred to in politics.

Newspapers, much more able to give in-depth coverage, still defend the public's right to know and strive to make sure government's public face and private actions match up.

In addition, another important role of newspapers is to inform a community, performing a --"We were there, you weren't, let us tell you about it" service. One point of a newspaper is to divvy out knowledge to the public and it is shared knowledge that binds a community together.

No one should forget that freedom, even that of the press, was hard won. Before the American Revolution in Colonial America, the press, under British rule, was not free. Publishers printing the truth could be sued for libel

and imprisoned.

It was one case, that of a German-born newspaper publisher, John Zenger, that established the precedent for freedom of the press in America, later reinforced by the Constitution.

In 1733, Zenger's New York Journal published several articles critical of the royal governor. Zenger was arrested and charged with libel, and imprisoned for eight months before his case came to trial. His attorneys, in defending him, established the precedent that a statement, even if defamatory, is not libelous if it can be proved. Zenger was found not guilty by American jurors, who refused to side with the governor.

That trial was the beginning of a free press in America.

Newspapers still maintain that integral role in American society. What other institution has the power to speak with key leaders, inspire social change and uncover corruption? Thanks to newspapers, citizens are empowered to take a stance on critical issues, enact change, and demand the best of their leaders.

Sadly today, however, small town newspapers may be the last bastion of true press freedom.

In 1983, 50 corporations controlled the American media. Today it's only six conglomerates --Time Warner, Walt Disney, Viacom, News Corp, NBC Universal, and CBS Corporation--that own all the media in the United States. And it must be noted that all of these major media outlets are left-leaning, with their journalists contributing 90% of their political donations to the Democratic party. Without small town newspapers and talk radio, our nation would have no better access to the news than the Russian government's state owned media, Pravda.

When 90% of media ownership sides with one party, their editorial boards choose what stories to ignore, and which to print, and

of course stories that negatively portray their party or ideology are ignored, and this can paint a false image to the American people. It is obvious that these large conglomerates are in cahoots with official Washington.

No matter what party one is affiliated with, it's a dire necessity for the survival of our republic that one stays well-informed on the issues, and does not take NBC'S word for it, for one must remember that the media is out for ratings, and can be grossly inaccurate.

In the book "The Gospel According to America", David Durk reminds all of a lesson we seem to be forgetting, that as "learners of freedom, we might come to understand that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

In that effort to remain vigilant, journalists, throughout the history of America, have worked alongside the soldier in an effort to convey the truth to the American people.

Unfortunately, today's Americans are said to be the least informed in all of American history, despite our great access to information. Oh, they may know the latest pop song, or who's 1st on "Dancing With the Stars", but knowing about what's really going on in the government, not so much.

If the citizen fails in his or her responsibility to remain informed, then absolute power is given to elected officials to do as they will.

So, let's not forget the vital importance of freedom of the press, and the newspapers that still strive today to keep our republic free. Remember, if we the people fail in our civic duties, we will have no one to blame but ourselves when our Constitution is shredded by powers we allowed to take root in the first place.

Contact Carrie at gidget2114@gmail.com for any questions or comments on her columns.



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News Briefs

WISD to hold DSBDMC Meeting January 7
Waller ISD will hold a District Site-Based Decision Making Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 4 p.m. in the Waller ISD Administration Building Board Room, located at 2214 Waller Street. The 2015-2016 Waller ISD Calendar Survey process will be on the agenda. All meetings are open to the public; parents and community members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 936-931-3685.

Mike Eden Ministries to Hold Fundraiser
Mike Eden Ministries will be hosting their 9th annual fundraiser on Saturday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Hempstead Knights of Columbus Hall. This event will benefit Little Eden Children's Home in Kenya, a home for 67 Kenyan orphan boys and girls.

Glenn Hegar Sworn in as New Texas Comptroller

Glenn Hegar was sworn in on January 2 as Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts by Gov.-elect Greg Abbott in a ceremony in the Senate Chamber.

In his inaugural speech, Hegar said he could assure Texans he would do everything in his power to keep the Texas economy on track.

"Texas is a land of economic opportunity with no equal,

where private property rights are respected, where people can raise families in safety, and entrepreneurs can pursue their dreams and create jobs," he said.

Texas Lt. Gov.-elect Dan Patrick, who gave the welcome address during the ceremony, said he looked forward to working with Hegar.

"Texas is lucky to have Glenn as its next Comptroller —

he is a man of great integrity who will faithfully serve as the chief financial officer of this state," Patrick said. "Glenn and I came into the Texas Senate together, and it has been a pleasure working with him for the past seven years. His fiscal experience and proven leadership will serve the state well."

"The state of Texas will have a faithful advocate of our

growing economy and a watchful steward of Texans' taxpayer dollars in the Office of the Comptroller with Glenn Hegar," Abbott said. "I look forward to working with Comptroller Hegar to ensure Texas' continued success in reducing government inefficiencies and a more fiscally responsible future for genera-

See COMPTROLLER page 3B

Is Mankind the Center of the Universe After All?

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times

Don't scoff. A new documentary film, "The Principle", makes the case that humans are perhaps the key piece in the universe's puzzle.

The film is based on debunking the Copernican Principle, which states that "humans have no privileged place in the universe," and challenges the long held idea that humans are insignificant, and the Earth is only a "small blue dot".

Although it is known, of course, that the Earth revolves around the sun, the new documentary suggests that perhaps it is mankind that is the center of creation itself, and not the Earth.

Of course, civilization has been shaped by two ideas: Religious principles and science. In Genesis, mankind is the center of everything, and that idea re-



Some scientists suggest that mankind is indeed the key to the existence of the universe and that the universe is indeed the result of intelligent design. *Internet photo.*

mained for millennia, until science rejected long-held geocentric theories.

However, a Creator always remained of extreme importance to mankind until the twentieth

century. In fact, it was in 1966 that Time Magazine ran a cover story titled, "Is God Dead?". Although controversial at the time,

See UNIVERSE page 4A



In December, the Republican Women of Waller County (RWWC) provided dictionaries to all third grade students in Waller County. The RWWC had the objective of wanting children to be encouraged to increase their learning. Shown is (l-r) Judith Kulhanek (RWWC treasurer), Dani Post (RWWC president), and children. *Photo credit: Marilyn Stokes.*

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WISD JH and HS Join Together for Winter Band Concert

WISD Public Information

The Waller ISD band students from W.C. Schultz Junior High School, Waller Junior High School, and Waller High School blew audience members away on December 15 with their performances of the musical pieces they have been practicing.

The Waller High School Auditorium was filled to capacity as parents and families gathered to listen to the Waller Bands Winter Concert featuring holiday music performed by the talented band students from three campuses.

The Schultz Junior High School Symphonic Band started the evening with their performances of Jingle Bells featuring trumpets, flutes and saxophones, Ode To Joy featuring the horns, clarinets and oboes, Up on a Housetop featuring bassoon, trombones, euphoniums, tubas and percussion, and First Winter's Sleigh Ride.

The Schultz Junior High School Symphonic Band performed Jingle Bells Upside Down, Fanfare for a Holiday Celebration, and Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.

The Schultz Junior High School Wind Ensemble performed Holidays on Parade, Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs III. III Here, Take This Lovely Flower, and That Holiday Season!

The Waller Junior High School Beginning Band took the stage next and performed Jingle Bells, Jolly Old St. Nick, Doodle All Day featuring the brass section, Up on a Housetop, A Mozart Melody featuring the woodwinds section, Ode to Joy, Carol of the Bells featuring the percussion sections, and First Winter's Sleigh Ride.

The Waller Junior High School Symphonic and Concert Bands followed with their



The Waller ISD Bands performed their Winter Concert to a full house on December 15. Pictured are Waller Junior High School band members during their performance. WISD Public Information.

performances of We Wish you a Rockin' Christmas, Santa's Parade, and Carol of the Bells.

The Waller Junior High School Wind Ensemble performed Parade of the Bumbling Wooden Soldiers, Still, Still, and Music from Frozen.

The Waller High School Jazz Band captivated the attendees with their performances of Just for Kicks, Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow,

and A Chili Pepper Christmas.

The Waller High School Symphonic Band performed The Angels of Christmas, As Twilight Falls, and Slavonic Folk Suite Cathedral Chorus.

The Waller High School Wind Ensemble wrapped up the evening with their performances of The Eighth Candle and A Christmas Festival.

All of the students in the bands gave a great effort and played their hearts out for the

eager attendees. The audience was mesmerized by the beautiful music the young performers produced. The Schultz Junior High School Band is under the direction of Alicia Vause and Hannah Hensdill, the Waller Junior High School Band is under the direction of Sandra Smith and Paula Garcia, and the Waller High School Band is under the direction of Grant McWilliams, Richard Hanf, and Joseph Cox.

UNIVERSE Continued from page 1A

many have accepted the cultural narrative that as science progresses, the need for God becomes obsolete.

But according to "The Principle", this surmise was premature.

It seems that in the universe, the odds against life are astonishing. As one minor example of the wonder of our existence, the planet Jupiter looms as a large factor.

Without the massive size of Jupiter, whose gravity draws away asteroids, the Earth would have been bombarded by a thousand times as many asteroids, making life here virtually impossible.

In the world of science, the pendulum is beginning to swing slightly to the realization that the existence of life is nearly impossible, and it is simply not credible that we were the result of random

forces. Scientists now know that the creation of the universe itself depended on four main forces--gravity, the electromagnetic force, and strong and weak nuclear forces. According to astrophysicists, these forces were determined in less than a millisecond after the big bang. If any one of the mathematical values of these forces was altered, the universe would not exist.

Since the 1960's, search for extraterrestrial intelligence has been ongoing through a program called SETI (Search of Extraterrestrial Intelligence). Scientists have listened on their vast telescopic networks for "life out there", but as decades have passed, the silence has become more and more deafening. In fact, Congress defunded SETI in 1993, but it was continued with private funding. Still, to this day, there has been no response from anywhere in this vast universe.

Today, it is known that there are more than 200 parameters necessary for a planet to support life--and each one must be perfectly met--or even the remote possibility of life dies.

Tie this knowledge of all the other necessary conditions for life and the odds against the universe existing are so overwhelmingly astronomical that the notion that it all "just happened" defies common sense.


Recently, physicist Paul Davies stated that "the appearance of design is overwhelming". And Dr. John Lennox, renowned astrophysicist at Oxford University reinforced this sentiment, saying, "The more we get to know the universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a Creator gains credibility as the best explanation of why we are here."

For those of faith, there has never been a doubt that God's creation and plan for the universe continues to unfold.

But now, even some in science are beginning to acknowledge that perhaps the Earth and the human race hold the ultimate answers of the universe after all.

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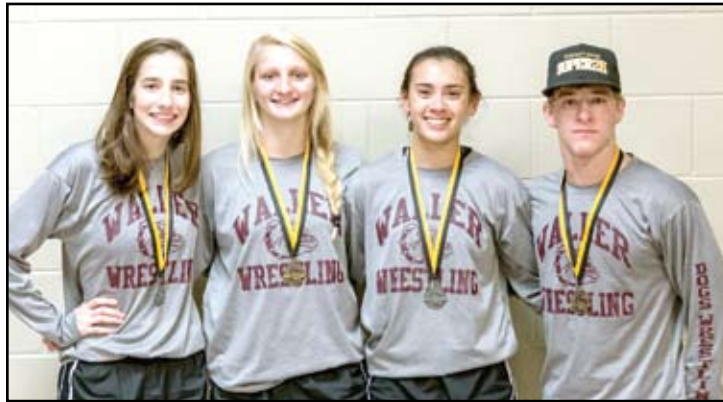
WISD Public Information

The Waller High School junior varsity and varsity boys and girls wrestling teams attended the Falcon Classic Tournament at Foster High School on Saturday, December 13. Many Waller High School students placed at the event.

On the varsity boys team, Cody Carter took first place in weight class 138, Wesley Campbell took fifth place in weight class 195, Chris York also took fifth place in weight class 220, and Bailey Bloodworth took sixth place in weight class 182. The varsity girls team also

brought home many title, including McKenzie Schild taking first place in weight class 148, Caitlyn Ulrich who took second place in weight class 110, Megan Allen took second place in weight class 119, Kylee Roberts took second place in weight class 148, and Victoria Flores who took fourth place in weight class 110.

The junior varsity boys team members Adam Croy took first place in weight class 182, Cullen Allen took fourth place in weight class 152, and Evan Herzog took fourth place in weight class 160.



Pictured are four of the Waller High School wrestling team members who earned a medal at the Falcon Classic Tournament at Foster High School on Friday, December 13. Pictured are (l-r) Megan Allen, McKenzie Schild, Caitlyn Ulrich, and Cody Carter. WISD Public Information.

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OFFICIALS Continued from page 1A



District Judge Albert M. McCaig (right) administers the oath of office to new Waller County Commissioner, Pct. 2, Russell Klecka. Photo credit: Carrie Prazak-Gourley, The Waller Times.



Waller County Judge Trey Duhon (right) swears in Waller County Commissioner, Pct. 4, Ted Krenke (left). Photo credit: Carrie Prazak-Gourley, The Waller Times.

Clerk Liz Pickle; County Clerk Debbie Hollan; County Treasurer Joan Sargent; Commissioner of Pct. 2 Russell Klecka; Commissioner of Pct. 4 Justin Beckendorff; Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Marian Elaine Jackson; and Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 Ted Krenke.

Commissioner Pct. 4 Justin Beckendorff was sworn into office by his father, outgoing County Judge Glenn Beckendorff, and Marian Elaine Jackson received the oath of office from her husband, Prairie View Mayor Frank Jackson.

In addition, Waller County Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 Delores Hargrave was sworn in at the Pct. 2 Court Annex in Field Store by Court Annex Clerk Sharon Reimer.

After the swearing in ceremony was complete, newly-sworn County Judge Trey Duhon addressed the assembled crowd, saying, "I would like first of all to thank everybody here today. I appreciate you being here. This is a special day for me, my family, and the people of Waller County. This is what our democracy is about. I am honored and humbled to be serving you, and I look forward to working with all elected officials to make our county the greatest in the state."

Judge June Jackson also addressed those assembled stating, "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you all these years."

Finally, former County Judge Glenn Beckendorff made a short farewell address thanking everyone and extolling all county departments and the great job that each of them do.

Beckendorff ended his comments stating, "I'd like to thank everyone in county government. You're a great group of folks. It's



Former Waller County Judge Glenn Beckendorff (right) administers the oath of office to his son, Justin Beckendorff (left), who is standing with his family. Beckendorff was elected to the office of Waller County Commissioner, Precinct 4. Photo credit: Marilyn Stokes.

been great. I couldn't have worked with a better group of people." The swearing in ceremony for county officials was followed by a reception in the Assembly Room.

ARNOLD

Continued from page 2A

the funding. It's kinda ingenious, although I don't pretend to understand how it's supposed to work, and I can't find a thing about the proposed price. But if you have an idle moment or two, you can read about it at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1034423012/aura-the-first-ever-wirelessly-powered-christmas-l>

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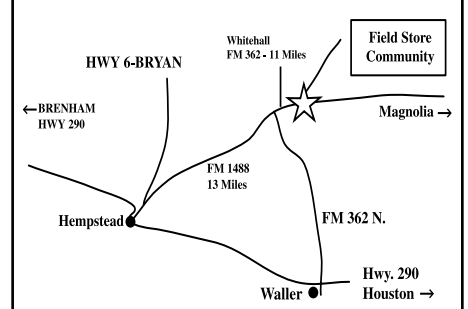
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COMPTROLLER Continued from page 3A

tions to come.”
 Of the goals for the agency, Hegar said he will focus on “constitutional functions including tax collection, accounting and providing a clear revenue estimate to legislators.”
 Regarding the Comptroller’s role in the continued economic strength of our state, Hegar said he will focus “more than ever on customer service” and will continue to “root out waste, fraud and inefficiency in state government to maximize ‘shareholder value’ for Texas taxpayers.”
 He added, “We will never forget that we work for the Texas taxpayers and not the other way around. Our job is to handle the

basics then get out of the way.”
 He also spoke of his love and gratitude for his family, most notably his wife and three children.
 In conclusion, Hegar pledged to work with Abbott and Patrick to “ensure Texas remains an example to the nation and the world of personal freedom, game-changing innovation and unlimited opportunity.”
 Hegar, who was the youngest member of the Texas Senate before leaving to become Texas Comptroller, is a sixth generation Texan who farms on land in Waller County that has been in his family since the mid-1800s. Hegar lives in Katy, Texas.

MILLS



Percy May Mills was born in Oakwood, Texas to loving parents, Lula Mae and Rupert Henry Bing, on January 30, 1916. The loss of her father at an early age strengthened the family bond of the Bings in Oakwood and her love for her adored brother, R.H. Throughout her life, she treasured and often referred to

the happy time she had growing up in the small East Texas town. Percy May’s mother was determined her children would be able to attend college in spite of depression times. And indeed, both of them graduated from what was then Southwest Texas State Teacher’s College, now known as Texas State University. They followed their parents’ professions and entered the field of education.
 In 1939, Percy May accepted a teaching position and came to Hempstead where she met F.R. “Goober” Mills. They married in 1940 and were married until his death in 1993. She was a devoted wife and always referred to herself as Mrs. F.R. Mills. Percy May continued to teach after her marriage, and she is still remembered fondly by her students.

During Percy May’s life in Hempstead, she enjoyed the friendship of many and could often be found at the Methodist Church serving the Lord and His people. Sunday was her favorite day of the week, and she loved her Sunday School class.
 Percy May is survived by two daughters, Ann and Kay, who always knew they had the most wonderful mother in the world. Their spouses, Charlie and Tom, happily testify to her being the absolute perfect mother-in-law.
 To her grandchildren, she was their precious “Mimi.” How she loved dear Karen, Kathy, Rob, John and Mills. In the later years of her life, she was blessed to enjoy being a great-grandmother. She was always thrilled when Jake and Andrew came to see her.
 Percy May’s life was ex-

emplary of many outstanding qualities-one of her finest was her sense of commitment. If she promised to do something, you could count on it!!! She has left to us a powerful and enduring legacy of love for God, for His Word, and for His Church.
 Percy May went to Heaven on December 18, 2014. Rejoicing in her life and in the knowledge that we will see her again in heaven are her daughters: Ann and husband Charlie Menke, Kay and husband Tom Scholl; grandchildren: Karen Pollard, Kathy and husband Aaron Holmes, Robert Scholl, John and wife Adrienne; and great grandchildren Jake and Andrew Holmes.
 Gifts in memory of Percy May Mills may be made to First United Methodist Church in Hempstead.

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50 ACRES: 2 minutes south of Waller. Fenced, well, electricity, driveway w/gate & seasonal creek.....\$11,500/ac.

50.25 ACRES: Near Hempstead. Unrestricted. More acreage available\$9,500/ac.

63.68 ACRES: Beautifully wooded w/clusters of trees & 3 ponds. Unrestricted. Ag exempt & fenced.....\$14,840/ac.

75.2 ACRES: Organic Farm. Rolling, unrestricted, 2 ponds, 3 barns & working pens. Adjoining acreage available\$11,300/ac.

93, 96 & 98 ACRE TRACTS: Just west of Hempstead near Hwy 290 & Hwy 6. Scenic, with choice homesites, lakes, sandy soil, gently rolling & long frontage w/3-board fence. Owner Finance\$15,000/ac.

100 ACRES: Level with long frontage near Hwy 290 at Waller. Fenced on 3 sides, pond & shed.....PENDING\$14,900/ac.

144 ACRES: Organic Farm. Rolling, unrestricted, 4 ponds, 3 barns & working pens. Fronts Cochran Road.....\$10,500/ac.

1226 ACRES: Highly productive working cattle ranch in Chappell Hill. Over 4 miles of frontage, improved pastures, good fencing, 5 water wells, working pens, chute, hay & equipment sheds, irrigation system for 200-300 acres, holding tank, pond, good interior road, frontage along creek & Red Gully. Flood plain.....\$5,500/ac.

HOMES

FOR LEASE: Tomball - Nice 2-2 duplex unit w/appliances & fenced back yard..... \$1,050/mo.

HWY 6 CORNER: older 2-1 wood frame home on 0.39 acre at Hwy 6 & FM 1736. Needs work. Commercial potential.....\$65,000

BUS HWY 290: 2-1 rock home w/ slate roof. Fantastic commercial potential for your small business, office or shop. Wood burning fireplace and oversized detached 1 car garage. Beautiful large trees.....\$79,500

WALLER: Older 3-2 w/carport on 1.92 acres. Needs work. Scattered oaks & pecans. Large lighted arena with good pipe fencingPENDING \$115,000

KICKAPOO HILLS: 2-2-2 home on 2 acres plus 2nd home that could be a guest home. 2nd home is being remodeled, owner will not complete. Peaceful with lots of trees.....PENDING.....\$169,000

RARE FIND: Lovely 3-2 on 2 acres in lightly restricted country neighborhood. High ceilings, open plan, island kitchen. Fenced pasture w/loafing shed\$199,000

PINE RIDGE: Charming 5-3-3 home on 5.77 acres. Upgraded appliances, granite, stone fireplace, wood & ceramic tile flooring. Full length porches & extra large garage. Deed Restrictions\$425,000

COUNTRY ESTATE: Stunning 4-2/2-3 home on 4.5 acres in Tennoaks. Home is loaded with too many features & upgrades to list + guest suite over garage. Manicured grounds, 22-zone sprinkler system, deck w/hot tub & 30’X50’ insulated shop w/extended cover.....\$585,000

MULTI-FAMILY

TOWNHOMES: 5-Unit townhome building in Prairie View. Each unit is a 2-2. Located less than 1 mile from Prairie View A & M campus. Built in 2009 on 1 acre with paved parking \$510,000

FARMS & RANCHES


HWY 6 FRONTAGE: Unrestricted scenic 15 acres w/two 1-1 older homes connected together, oversized 2-car garage, kennel, covered BBQ area, large shop, covered equipment storage, well house & storage building. Partially wooded w/pond & creek. Fenced & gated entrance.....\$325,000

CORNER TRACT: 32 acres on FM529 south of Hempstead. 3-2 Manufactured home, 3-carport, pad for 2nd home w/water, electric & separate septic, 7-stall barn, lighted arena, 2 loafing sheds, hay barn, fenced garden area & 2 ponds. Easy access to Hwy 290 or I-10.....\$395,000

38.5 ACRE RANCH: Near Hempstead. Nice 3-2 metal exterior home w/large back porch. Barn, arena & x-fenced pastures. Ag exempt\$499,000

BROOKSHIRE: 2-2-2 on 9.6 acres on FM 359. Quarters, shop, covered arena & RV parking. City utilities, well & septic. Unrestricted w/850’ frontage offers commercial potential.....\$510,000

Featured Listing



COUNTRY ESTATE: Stunning 4-2/2-3 home on 4.5 acres in Tennoaks. Home is loaded with too many features & upgrades to list + guest suite over garage. Manicured grounds, 22-zone sprinkler system, deck w/hot tub & 30’X50’ insulated shop w/extended cover.....\$599,000

FARMS & RANCHES

PENICK FARMS: Unique spacious 4-2.5 metal exterior home w/exterior stone wainscoting & attached 20’ X 69’ drive through carport on 10 acres. Home has many upgrades. Workshop/storage, pond, large chicken coop, garden, fruit & nut trees, fenced & x-fenced\$520,000

GREAT HORSE PROPERTY: Corner 40 acres in North Waller County on FM 362. Two unfinished metal exterior homes (3-2 & 2-2), 28-stall barn & pond. 3-2 is approx. 80% complete & 2-2 is approx. 50% complete. Long frontage on both roads provides potential for sub-dividing.....PENDING\$550,000

GREAT LOCATION: 25 Acres just 1 mile from US Hwy 290 near Waller. 3-2-2 Home, garage w/workshop, 40X50 barn & 6X100 barn. Fenced, Ag exempt, unrestricted.....PENDING\$665,000

WALLER: 13 Acre ranch with 3-2.5 home. First floor has 3,179 sq. ft. with too many extras to list. Separate entry unfinished 2nd floor is framed for 2 bedrooms, media room, great room w/fireplace, & plumbing roughed in for kitchen, utility room & 2.5 baths. Plus a 35X60 Morton building/barn, RV parking, pond, pasture & fenced\$695,000

35 ACRE RANCH: on Hwy 6 north of Hempstead in Grimes County. Gated w/3-2-2 rock home with metal roof, high ceilings, study & rock fireplace. 6-Stall barn, 3 pastures & loafing shed. Ag exempt & unrestricted. Low taxes.....\$1,300,000

OAK CREEK RANCH: Scenic 410.8 acres with stately 2-story 5-2.5 farmhouse w/ 2-carport, horse barn, implement/hay barn, loafing shed, 6 ponds, running creek & great views. Fenced & x-fenced with 2 entrances from Mitchell & 1 from Old Mitchell. Great development potential.....\$4,724,833

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

0.92 ACRE: City of Brookshire. Commercial or residential. City utilities.....\$62,000

0.99 ACRE: in Waller Business Park. Corner of FM 362 & Park 290 Drive just off of Hwy 290. Additional 1 to 3 acres available.....\$5.00/sq. ft.

1.5 ACRES: Just 1 block north of I-10 in Brookshire. Zoned commercial.....\$1.95/sq. ft.

2.59 ACRES: on FM 2920 near Lutheran Church Rd. in Tomball. Excellent location. Owner financing available.....\$450,000

3.96 ACRES: FM 362 near Hwy 290. Corner location. City utilities.....\$3.50/sq. ft.

4 ACRES: on FM 2920 across from Harlan’s shopping center. Rapidly developing area. Excellent commercial location. City utilities. Near US Hwy 290.....\$5.00/sq. ft.

6 ACRES: in Quixote Business Park near Brookshire. Corner lot. Restrictions.....PENDING.....\$1.50/sq. ft.

13 ACRES: 700’ frontage on FM 362 & 500’ on “B” Street. Prime location.....PENDING.....\$40,000/ac.

30 ACRES: Commercial corner on Kickapoo right off US Hwy 290. Freeway on/off ramps on east & west side of intersection for easy access.....\$2.00/sq. ft.

450 ACRES: Excellent for residential or light industrial development in Katy. 1.5 miles north of I-10 & 15 miles from the energy corridor.....PENDING.....\$30,000/ac.

WALLER: 3,334 sq. ft. office/retail building on Main Street. Great location.....\$99,500

HEMPSTEAD: 2,400 sq. ft. & 3,437 sq. ft. building plus 3-2 mobile on Bus. 290. Lots of parking & high traffic area. Zoned commercial.....PENDING.....\$200,000

WALLER NURSERY: 12 unrestricted acres with well, irrigation & commercial greenhouses. Heated plant beds for year round growing. Everything needed to operate a business.....\$250,000

HEMPSTEAD: Investment opportunity - 8 houses on 8 lots. Must be sold together. All but one is currently leased...\$364,430

MAGNOLIA: 3,000 sq. ft. building with 3+ offices, conference room & 1 large bay on 1.04 acres on SH 249. Owner financing available.....\$549,500

OFFICE WAREHOUSE : 13,000 sq. ft. metal building w/7 offices & several warehouses on 10 acres in Waller. Includes very nice attached 3-2 living quarters. Fenced. Easy access to US Hwy 290 & the Grand Pkwy.....\$950,000

HEMPSTEAD: Established & successful ballroom/reception hall. On 11.3 acres in Hempstead. Beautifully finished. Furnished with everything you need – set up w/bookings & ready to go\$1,500,000

CALL COLDWELL BANKER PROPERTIES UNLIMITED

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W4408 3-2-2 brick home on corner lot with nice shade trees.....\$179,000



W4367 Beautiful custom stone home with cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, marble counters, beautiful tile flooring on a hill with a view, 6 stall barn, lighted arena, covered RV parking, additional barn, two ponds on 30 acres.....\$1,530,000



W4427 3-2 brick home in Cypress, double sided fireplace, Cy-Fair ISD.....\$210,000



W4428 3-2-2 brick home, recent roof, formals, large kitchen on 2 lots.....\$107,500



W4402 4-2.1 country home on 4+ acres, two story, stone fireplace, built in entertainment center, island kitchen, in-ground pool with spa, cross fenced, 40 x 40 metal building, barn with stalls.....\$398,500



W4403 3-2 beautiful home on 15 acres with ag exemption, gated entrance, workshop, barn with working pens, beautifully landscaped with irrigation, fenced and cross fenced\$597,900

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

- W4348 5-3-3 custom home on island at Lake Conroe, beautiful winding staircase, high ceilings, great views, pool with hot tub, waterfall, giant deck with boat dock and jet ski lifts\$1,495,000
- W4356 3-2-2 brick home on 5 beautifully landscaped lots, formals, large den, wood burning stove, small creek, corner property\$165,000
- W4357 Large building in downtown Hempstead, currently a hardware store.....\$555,000
- W4359 1-1-1 brick home in Hempstead.....\$69,000
- W4375 3-2 home in town with a smaller home also on property\$65,000
- W4391 5 small homes on 3 city lots, investment potential\$250,000
- W4408 3-2-2 brick home on corner lot with nice shade trees\$179,000
- W4427 3-2 brick home in Cypress, double sided fireplace, Cy-Fair ISD\$210,000
- W4428 3-2-2 brick home, recent roof, formals, large kitchen on 2 lots.....\$107,500

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- W4360 Corner lot in city with utilities\$4,500
- W4367 Beautiful custom stone home with cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, marble counters, beautiful tile flooring on a hill with a view, 6 stall barn, lighted arena, covered RV parking, additional barn, two ponds on 30 acres.....\$1,150,000
- W4372 Awesome country showplace on 50 acres with custom home that includes granite counters, high ceilings, butlers pantry, hardwood floors, gameroom, gazebo, pond, improved pastures, gated entrance\$1,795,000
- W4374 10 acres in subdivision, deed restrictions, Waller ISD.....\$470,000
- W4386 160 acres with lots of frontage, water well, FM frontage, could be divided\$2,486,820
- W4401 Showplace!! Completely remodeled 4 bedroom home, fireplace, hardwood flooring, granite counters, large game room, deck, inground pool, beautiful scattered oaks, 5 + acre lake, 5 barns, 81 acres, frontage on two sides\$1,595,000
- W4402 4-2.1 country home on 4+ acres, two story, stone fireplace, built in entertainment center, island kitchen, inground pool with spa, cross fenced, 40 x 40 metal building, barn with stalls\$398,500
- W4403 3-2 beautiful home on 15 acres with ag exemption, gated entrance, workshop, barn with working pens, beautifully landscaped with irrigation, fenced and cross fenced.....\$597,900
- W4411 lots in City of Waller, corner property, scattered trees, recently cleared.....\$27,900
- W4421 Beautiful 97 acres, brick home, barn, pond, scattered trees, close to Hwy. 290.....\$2,764,500
- W4422 Corner lot in Hempstead, additional lots available\$6,000
- W4423 Two lots in Hempstead, city utilities available\$12,000
- W4088 80 acres, barns, storage shed, lake, beautiful land\$2,359,665
- W4267 9 acres, FM 2920 frontage, excellent development location\$865,000
- W4275 9 + acres in Tomball area with FM 2920 frontage\$865,000
- W4276 318 acres, Peek Rd in Katy, excellent location\$11,130,000
- W4290 3000 sq. ft. building with covered porches, currently a restaurant, with ample parking on 1.9 acres with FM frontage\$525,000
- W4309 Three lots with city utilities, curbs, close to schools and shopping\$35,000
- W4346 43 acres, frontage on Hwy 290 and three other roads, great visibility.....\$1,400,000
- W4347 Lake front lot on island at Bentwater on Lake Conroe\$590,000
- W4349 388 acre horse ranch with rail fencing, FM frontage, barns, stables, 8 acre lake, large irrigated hay field, additional ponds, main home shaded by large oaks, additional home on property\$4,225,000

BUYING OR SELLING LET

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