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Scripture of the Week
MATTHEW 2: 1
 1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him."

THE WALLER TIMES

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Trooper Encinia turns himself in to Waller County authorities

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Brian Encinia, the arresting officer in the Sandra Bland case, turned himself in to the Waller County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, January 7, after his indictment for perjury by a Waller County Grand Jury on the previous day. District Judge Albert M. McCaig, Jr. signed a warrant for his arrest at 9 a.m. Thursday morning.
 Encinia, who faces up to one year in jail and up to a \$4,000 fine for the Class A misdemeanor charge, drove to the Waller County Jail where he surrendered to local authorities. His truck was driven into a garage with an overhead door which was quickly lowered after his entrance.
 Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith stated that due to the many threats his department had received over the last few months, it was necessary to proceed with caution during the arrest.
 Encinia's bond had been set for \$2,500, and after a 30 minute booking process, he was released after paying the bond amount of \$250. Encinia has stated that he will plead not guilty in the case and has hired local attorney Larkin Eakin, of Hempstead, to represent him.

After his indictment, the Texas Department of Public Safety stated that it would begin the process of terminating Encinia, who was still employed by the Texas DPS at the time of his arrest. However, Encinia's attorney stated late last Friday that Encinia will appeal his termination, which he states is unwarranted.
 It is the affidavit, signed by Trooper Encinia after his arrest, that prompted the grand jury to indict him for perjury. Encinia stated in the affidavit that he had "Bland exit the vehicle to be able to conduct a safer investigation." Grand jurors determined this statement to be untrue.
 Encinia, age 30, only recently became a state trooper in 2014. He is a 2008 graduate of Texas A&M with a degree in agricultural leadership and development, and worked at Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham from 2008 until 2014 as a processing supervisor until the creamery was shut down due to the Listeria outbreak. He was also chief in the Brenham Fire Department from 2009-2013.
 Encinia pulled Bland over for not signaling a lane change near the campus of Prairie View A&M University. Video shows the trooper being calm and courteous toward



Texas DPS Trooper Brian Encinia was arrested and booked at the Waller County Jail on Thursday, July 7 on perjury charges, after indictment by the Waller County Grand Jury on January 6. Internet photo.

See ENCINIA page 3A

Hempstead couple files lawsuit against the City of Hempstead

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 A Hempstead couple, Milton and Virginia Carter, filed a lawsuit in the 506th District Court on December 17 against the City of Hempstead. The lawsuit stems from an accident that occurred on October 10, 2015 at 10 p.m., in which a City of Hempstead patrol car, operated by City of Hempstead Officer Lopez, slammed into their home, located at 1905 11th St., in Hempstead.
 According to the crash report filed with the Texas Department of Transportation, the officer's car was traveling northbound on FM 1887. The report states that Officer Lopez had been ill for several days

and coughing continuously without control. He blacked out and lost control of his cruiser, veered across all lanes, jumped a curb and entered the front lawn of the Carter's residence, striking a tree on the south side of the residence, then slamming into the exterior brick wall, causing structural damage.
 According to Hempstead's Mayor Michael Wolfe, the city has done their due diligence. Wolfe stated that he visited the scene with a contractor to assess damages, and reported the incident to the city's insurance carrier. An insurance agent visited their home and assessed the damage as well.
 Hempstead is a member of the TML

Intergovernmental Risk Pool, located in Austin, which provides municipalities with workers' compensation, liability, and property coverage. The TMLIRP was founded in 1974 and is the oldest and largest pool of its type in the United States, serving over 2,800 governments and political subdivisions.
 Mayor Wolfe stated that since a lawsuit has been filed, the case will be turned over to their law firm and the city will no longer be able to discuss the case with the Carters.
 The Carters have hired attorney W. Jeff Paradowski of the Law Offices of W. Jeff Paradowski, P.C. of College Station, to handle the case due of the lack of a

claim settlement to their damaged home. Paradowski stated that neither he nor the Carters were able to get anyone from the city to repair the damage to their home, even after three months. Paradowski felt there was no other recourse at this point except to file a lawsuit.
 In some cases, governmental bodies are immune from liability, but according to the Texas Tort Claims Act Chapter 101, governmental liability exists when there is "property damage, personal injury, or death which arises from the operation or use of a motor-driven vehicle or motor-driven equipment, and the employee would

See LAWSUIT page 3A

Commissioners debate, approve Waller County Judge stipend

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 On Tuesday, December 29, a special session was scheduled at 9 a.m. by the Waller County Commissioners Court to discuss and possibly amend the 2015 budget to accommodate a \$14,250 stipend from the state for Waller County Judge Trey Duhon's office.
 At the December 22 meeting, the request to amend the budget had been voted down, and Pct.1 Commissioner John Amsler as well as Pct. 2 Commissioner Russell Klecka, asked for more information on the request before they would vote in the affirmative.
 County Auditor Alan Younts had previously stated that the item was just cleaning up the budget, since the stipend was not on the radar when the 2015 budget was developed. Younts added that if no amendment was made

in this matter by the end of the year, the negative funds in the Judge's budget would trigger an audit by the state.
 At the beginning of the session, Commissioner Klecka asked for a more complete explanation of the stipend. "I'm getting calls from constituents, and people want to know how this came about."
 Commissioner Amsler stated, "For the sake of transparency, there needs to be an explanation for the citizens."
 Judge Duhon explained that he applied for the state supplement, which was subsequently approved by the state. In order to receive the funds, the judge had to sign an affidavit that 40% of his work is judicial. Duhon explained that as an attorney, he has performed magisterial duties every Wednesday and on one Saturday monthly. He also stated that he participates in ride-a-

longs for blood arrest warrants and is also on call. In addition, Duhon has spoken with Judge Jackson about participation in juvenile probate cases.
 Duhon also added that his salary is tied to the County Auditor Alan Younts, and that Younts is the best auditor in the state and Waller County is lucky to have him. Yount's salary is set by the District Judge Albert M. "Buddy" McCaig, Jr., and is directly tied to Duhon's. According to Duhon, the stipend will allow the county to compensate Younts more fairly and in line with the market.
 Due to the sudden scheduling of the special session, County Auditor Alan Younts was unable to attend, but his assistant Mike Boehnke made the following statement

See COMMISSIONERS page 1B

Texas becomes 46th State to allow Open Carry of handguns

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 As of January 1, Texas became the 46th state to allow the open carry of handguns in places that allow the licensed carrying of a concealed handgun. Individuals who hold a valid CHL (concealed handgun license) may continue to carry with the existing license and no new training will be required. However, there are still places that such weapons cannot be taken. Texas Pe-

nal Code section 46.03 makes it a third-degree crime to take a firearm to certain places, including school grounds, polling places, courthouses, race tracks, airports, and penal institutions. Felons are still excluded from the right to own a weapon.
 Some Texans don't realize that under House Bill 1815, passed in 2007 by the 80th Legislature, individuals already have the right to carry a concealed handgun on your own premises or in your vehicle (RV included) without a license.
 In Texas, a person may already carry, either open or concealed, in a non-threatening or alarming manner, a shotgun or rifle, loaded or unloaded, without a license.
 Open carry is defined as the act of carrying a firearm in public in plain sight. If an individual is openly carrying a handgun (meaning, it is not concealed), the handgun must be carried in a

shoulder or belt holster. This applies whether the gun is loaded or unloaded.
 There are three kinds of open carry in the United States--permissive, licensed, and anomalous (rural).
 In permissive states, there are no laws to prohibit carrying a weapon and no training or license is required. Twenty-three states have permissive carry, including: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado(except for Denver County), Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.
 Other states, like Texas, require a license for open carry. These states include: Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts,

See TEXAS page 1B

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Waller Wonders – Mid-January ... how are your resolutions?

By NANCY ARNOLD



We're half-way through January, and some of us are still keeping our New Year resolutions. Fine, some of us are not. Just never mind ... let's take stock.

We made a pact with ourselves ... and only with ourselves ... 'cause who actually shares this stuff with others? ... that we would (1) eat healthier; (2) cut out fats/carbs/sugar/sodas (fill in the blank as needed); (3) exercise more ... or at least three times a week; (4) go to bed earlier; (5) watch less TV and read more; (6) drink more water ... Am I close on any of these, or were those just my ambitious resolutions?

How are we doing on the "eat healthier" thing? What does that

even mean? The drumbeat for a while has been "shop the edges of the grocery store." Supposedly if you shop the edges – along the walls – of the store, you're only buying fresh ... fresh produce, fresh meat, dairy, juice ... none of those evil canned and packaged "processed foods" in the middle of the store.

Most of us don't live on a farm. We don't slaughter our own meat. We don't grow all of our own vegetables. We don't milk our own cows (or goats). Oh, sure, we may have some tomato plants on the patio, maybe some pepper plants. What does "eating fresh" really mean?

Melissa Joy Dobbins with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, very patiently explains that vegetables and fruits "are canned as soon as they're picked so they're at peak nutrition." The U.S. Department of Agriculture follows that up with some news about tomatoes. Canned tomatoes, in particular, contain more of the heart disease-protective carotenoid pigment lycopene than fresh tomatoes do. In fact, cooking tomatoes intensifies the lycopene. So fire up that can opener and get your canned tomato vitamins. I forget to water my patio tomatoes anyway.

Here's one of the new food myths: gluten is bad for you so gluten-free diets are healthier. Really? Only if you have celiac disease, and

then, yes, you should eat gluten-free. What is gluten anyway? That's a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye. These whole-grains happen to be rich in B vitamins, calcium, iron, zinc, magnesium, and fiber, and just might help lower the risk of heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and some forms of cancer. Peter H.R. Green, director of the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University, cautions that going gluten-free "isn't something that anyone should do casually."

Then there's the ongoing conversation about omega-3 fatty acids and how they do our bodies good (to borrow a phrase from the milk industry). Although the description certainly doesn't sound very appetizing, omega-3s help reduce the risk of heart disease and may support our memory as we age, so says the American Heart Association. I'm all for that!

The folks at the Heart Association suggest we eat fish rich in omega-3s, including tuna and salmon, at least twice a week. We protest, saying that's too hard to do. Ah, but no. For the past several years, I've been buying the sealed foil packets of tuna – all varieties and seasonings – rather than cans. Now they've started selling salmon in those packets. They're easy to toss in my lunch bag along with some mixed salad greens and an oil-and-vinegar dressing.

Then at lunch, I'm eating healthy instead of a bad ... and bad-for-me ... hamburger from McDonald's.

Did I mention that tuna is a slimming super food? It's full of lean protein, and nutrients such as selenium, Vitamin D, niacin, and B12. It's slimming because of the protein content, which helps us feel full. Three ounces of tuna in water has fewer than 100 calories and provides 16 grams of protein and about 100 percent of your daily value of omega-3s," explains Dawn Jackson Blatner with Fitness magazine.

It turns out that eating healthier is doable after all. Umm ... NOW all I have to do is cut out fats, carbs, and sugar. I can check "soda" off my list because I was able to kick the Dr Pepper habit over two years ago ... albeit with several false starts. I should be able to drop the other bad-dies ... eventually ... shouldn't I?

Wishing Fred and Evelyn Taylor, Jeremy and Amy Hurry, and Edwin and Norma Preston a happy anniversary.

Happy birthday to Jeannette Jessie, Lane Thomas Magnus, Pam Quast, Jamie Smith, Taylor Schmidt, Rev. Evelyn Cox, Rylan Loewe, Pat Dawson, Marilyn Damon, Angela Johnson, Janice Pearce, Janice Glueck, Ashley Marie Fritzsching, Ryan Theiss, Walker Connor, Pat Dawson, Brenda Marino, Luana

Lee, Patricia Buzek, Mark Webb, Kailyn Cox, Rebecca Gunderson, Ricky Fritzsching, Tricia Moellers, Skeeter Kersh, Jared Pache, Howard Thomas, Stephine Hammond, Betty Stahman, Lee Arnold, Dale Mikeska, Minnie Bell, Michael Tomczak, Haley Marburger Milburn, and Larry Sherrill.

We have a couple of family birthdays coming up next week. My nephew, Matthew Somers (son of my sister, Linda) celebrates his special day on the 18 th. My grand-niece, Penny McCaig, will be blowing out that all-important ONE candle – or swatting it – whatever works – on January 19. Unfortunately she will be doing it in North Texas.

Small-world story. Penny, along with her parents, Don and Taylor McCaig, moved to Lipan, Texas this week. Lipan (LYE-pan), for those not familiar with all 254 Texas counties, is in Hood County. It's next door to Granbury, the county seat of Hood County.

Go about 35 minutes southwest of Fort Worth and you'll come across Lipan and Granbury. Now you're oriented, so on with our story.

Don is the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Lipan. That's a bit closer to Waller than Wichita, Kansas, where they've been the past two-plus years. Eight hours of driving hasn't stopped Buddy and Kitty

(aka Penny's Nana and Granddad) from visiting Wichita. After all, eight hours is nothing when you have a grandbaby at the end of the trip.

Penny's other grandparents, Shawn and Peggy Gibson, are probably doing a happy dance about the move, though. They only live less than an hour away to Buddy and Kitty's four hours. I don't imagine that four hours will be much of an obstacle, do you?

Here's the wrap up to this small-world story. Tim Sears, who taught in the Waller ISD from 1968-1976 (including being elementary principal when my kiddos were in school), and still has many friends here, is from Lipan. Even though he's lived and taught in Wisconsin for years, he has deep roots in Lipan. He owns property in Lipan, and has more family and friends there than he can count. First Baptist is his home church where he grew up. I think Tim may be as excited about Don being in town as if he were still living there!

You can send your well-wishes to Don and Taylor – and a birthday card to Penny, too! – at the church: 214 N. Kickapoo/P.O. Box 28, Lipan, TX 76462.

Until next week ...
Contact Nancy at arnoldn@msn.com, or mail news items to her at P.O. Box 282, Waller 77484.

Remembering the gift of the Magi

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY



Last week marked the traditional end of the holiday season, with Twelfth Night, January 5, ending the "Twelve Days of Christmas". Twelfth Night today is the forgotten holiday, but it wasn't always so.

In colonial America (although not in Puritan Massachusetts) Twelfth Night was quite a celebration. So much so that George and Martha Washington chose Twelfth Night for the celebration of their wedding, since family and friends would already be gathered together.

Twelfth Night is followed by the celebration of Epiphany on January 6, also known as the Feast of the Three Kings, and in France and New Orleans, the day ushers in the Mardi Gras season. Many European countries, as well as countries in Central and South America, still celebrate Twelfth Night and Epiphany as holidays.

In keeping with my family tradition, I still make a "Three King's Cake", a homemade, iced butter cake topped with the Three Kings. A coffee bean (or any bean) is baked in the batter. How well I remember how my children strived to be "King for a Day" by being the lucky child to receive the bean in their piece of cake. The "king (or queen)" would then get to choose the supper menu and the day's activities. It's just not as much fun any more with just the two of us, but my daughter carries on the tradition with my grandchildren.

In Hispanic culture, the cake is usually a ring of bread dough with the baby Jesus inside rather than a butter cake, and in Texas thousands of "King's Cakes" are sold on Epiphany.

But, Epiphany is not about the cake or about the Wise Men (Magi), but about the presentation of God in human form to the world, which was the mission of the Magi.

And who were the Magi?

Few Biblical stories are as well known, yet so clouded in myth and tradition as that of the Magi. The story, mentioned in the Book of Matthew, tells us little. We do not know their names, number, or their mode of transportation. To discover the Magi, it is necessary to delve into the past.

In world history, the Magi first appear in the 7th century B.C., as a tribe in Eastern Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). They were known to be descendants of Noah's son, Shem, and within the group developed a priesthood that was monotheistic who were known throughout the region for their knowledge of astrology, astronomy, agriculture, mathematics, and history. It is also said that the group was strongly influenced by Judaism, and were familiar with the writings of the prophets, including Daniel.

Others claim they were a monk-like group of mystics from a

land called Shir in the Far East, or descendants of Seth, the righteous third son of Adam, and the guardians of the age-old prophecy that a star of indescribable brightness would herald the birth of God in human form.

No matter their origin, what makes the Magi important is not only were they highly educated, but they were Gentiles, signifying the future acceptance of not only the Jewish people, but all mankind into the Kingdom of God, made possible by the birth of Jesus Christ. The journey they made—and the curiosity and discipline it required—are also gifts of the Magi, and the fact that such learned men traveled so far to see what they deemed a "newborn king", adds to the Christmas story once again revealing the mystery and power of God.

Future generations add detail to the story. By the 600's, the mysterious visitors are given names—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Their number becomes three (perhaps due to the three gifts), and art depicts them as multi-ethnic.

How fitting these additions to the story are and what a message for Christianity it brings. The Magi, a gentile, multi-ethnic group of renowned scholars proclaimed the Son of God to the entire world. Their gifts to the Child Jesus were also significant—gold, representing kingship, frankincense, symbolic of His priestly role, and myrrh, prefiguring his death and shroud.

As the Magi paid homage to the holy infant, born in a lowly manger, they fully realized that the small babe, born in Bethlehem of Judea, was the fulfillment of long time Jewish prophecies, for they

had studied the writings of the prophets.

However, the gifts of the Magi to the baby Jesus were not the first gift of Christmas, nor were they the last. The Christmas story is wrought with gifts—God's gift of His only begotten Son to the world, Mary's gift to bear and raise the Son of God, and Joseph's gift to accept his extraordinary role as stepfather to the Son of God.

Because of the long journey made by the Magi long ago, gift-giving gradually became a part of the Christmas season. In fact, although many countries exchange gifts on Christmas Day, in others—Portugal, Spain, and Italy, and others—children leave hay in their shoes for the Wise Men's camels, and receive gifts on Epiphany, or January 6, called "Little Christmas" in Europe.

In America, the gifts of the Magi are also remembered in the classic short story written by O. Henry (William Sidney Porter) in 1905. O. Henry led quite a colorful life, part of which was lived the great state of Texas. In fact, Porter even lived in Houston for a while, working as a columnist for the Houston Post.

One of O. Henry's most famous works, "The Gift of the Magi", was written for his New York Post column in 1905. The

plot of his tale involves the Christmas gift exchange of a struggling young New York couple, who each give everything they have in order to buy a gift—the perfect gift—for each other. The wife cuts off all her hair to buy her husband a watch fob, but in a great plot twist, the husband sells his watch to buy beautiful turquoise hair combs for his beloved wife.

The Magi, of course, began the art of Christmas giving, and the words of O. Henry in his famous tale explain the art best:

"And here I lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children who unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasure of their house. But in a last word to the wise these days, let it be said that of all who give gifts these two are the wisest. O all who give gifts such as they are the wisest. They are the Magi."

May we, like the Magi, humbly offer our gifts to each other.

Matthew 2:1 "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him."

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

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News Briefs

WCFA steer committee to meet
The Waller County Fair Association steer committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Waller County fairgrounds in the committee office. If interested in joining the steer committee, please plan on attending.

Extension Office hosting Open House
Waller County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M Prairie View University Cooperative Extension Program is hosting an Open House, Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the County Extension Office 846 6th St., in Hempstead. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 14, 2016. Area residents are invited to meet and talk with the agents, staff, and volunteers and see what the local Extension office has to offer. Refreshments will be available during the open house. For more information, call 979-826-7651.

WallCo. Fair market goat committee meeting set
A WCFA market goat committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. in the Barbara Carpenter building at the Waller County Fairgrounds. Committee officers will be elected and rule changes will be discussed. New committee members are desperately needed. For more information, please email wcfamarketgoat@gmail.com.

HISD accepting GATE nominations
Hempstead ISD is now accepting nominations for students enrolled in Kindergarten for screening and possible placement in the Hempstead ISD Gifted and Talented Program for the Spring 2016 semester. Students may be nominated by administrators, teachers, parents, guardians, themselves or by any other interested person(s). Nomination forms may be found in the main office of the elementary school. Nominations will be accepted through January 29, 2016. For more information, please contact Cindy Jenkins at 979-826-5520 or by e-mail at jenkinsc@hempsteadisd.org.

ENCINIA Continued from page 1A

Bland until she questions his order to put out a cigarette, after which the situation escalates. The DPS has stated that Encinia broke courtesy protocols, and as a result, he has been on desk duty since July.

Bland was arrested during the stop for allegedly assaulting a police officer and was found hanged three days later in the Waller County Jail. Her death was ruled a suicide, and the incident has resulted in several protests at the Waller County Jail.

No indictments were issued by the grand jury to the Waller County Sheriff's Office or the jailers for the death of Sandra Bland, nor were any indictments

issued for the behavior of the trooper during the traffic stop.

The mother of Bland, Geneva Reed-Veal, has filed a civil rights lawsuit which consists of 46 pages involving 18 counts against the Texas Department of Public Safety, DPS Trooper Brian Encinia, Waller County, and two jailers at the Waller County Jail. According to Sheriff Glenn Smith, the two jailers who took care of Bland in jail have since resigned.

On Friday, in regards to the civil lawsuit filed by Bland's mother, the DPS and indicted Trooper Encinia have filed court papers asking a federal judge to let Encinia's criminal case in

Waller County play out before moving forward with the civil lawsuit. Texas Assistant Attorney General Seth Byron Dennis said in the court documents that the investigative reports that would surface in the civil lawsuit "would interfere with Trooper Encinia's ability to receive a fair trial in the state criminal matter, especially due to the media coverage of this case, public dissemination of reports could influence jurors."

A federal judge has set a

trial date in the civil suit for January 23, 2017. In the federal suit, Encinia will continue to be represented by the state. No trial date in the Encinia perjury case has been set.

Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis made the following statement about the indictment, "The grand jury has worked diligently to review the events surrounding the death of Bland. I appreciate their hard work and service to Waller County."

LAWSUIT Continued from page 1A

be personally liable to the claimant according to Texas law."

The lawsuit alleges that the City of Hempstead, through its employee, was negligent in the operation of a motor-driven vehicle, in failing to maintain control of the vehicle, speed of the vehicle, and in driving a patrol vehicle when sick. Paradowski, attorney for the Carters, is asking, according to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, damages in an amount within the jurisdictional limits of the court. The lawsuit states that the plaintiffs seek monetary relief, the maximum of which is greater than \$200,000 but less than \$1,000,000.

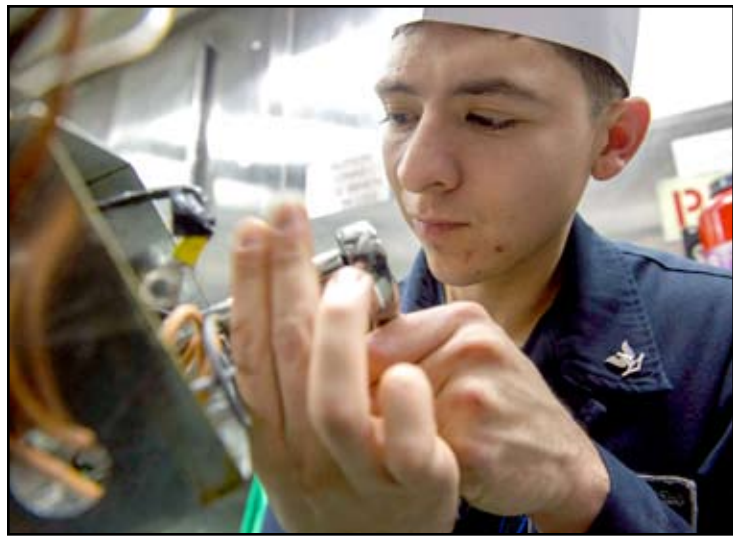
Virginia Carter stated that she and her husband had no intention of hiring an attorney after the crash occurred. "It was the last thing on our mind," she said.

But after three months of calling the insurance company and the city, with no result, they were fed up.

"Mayor Wolfe finally came out after several calls, and promised us that the damage would quickly be repaired," Carter stated. "Neither the city nor the insurance company has ever given us an estimate of repair. The insurance company has stated that they are waiting on a report from the arborist on their damaged tree. We told them we don't care about the tree. We just want our home repaired."

The Carters state that the incident has changed their lives, disturbing their sleep and leaving them with constant worry.

"You never know," Carter stated. "You're not even safe today in your own home."



Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Jonathan McFarland, from Hempstead, removes a hot pan for maintenance aboard USS Carney (DDG 64) on January 7, 2016. Carney, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, forward deployed to Rota, Spain, is conducting a routine patrol in the U. S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe. *Submitted photo.*

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Hempstead ISD recognizes board members for service

HISD Public Information

January is School Board Recognition Month and Hempstead ISD is joining other districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their commitment and contributions to our public schools.

Members of the Hempstead ISD School Board are recognized each year during the regular monthly board meeting in January.

Each January at Hempstead ISD, the district pauses to express their appreciation for a

very special group of volunteers: our school board members. We ask everyone to join in celebrating School Board Recognition Month, and to take a moment to express appreciation for the volunteer efforts of our school board members as our district benefits greatly from their service.

Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication of these local citizens who work without pay. So each year the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) encourages communities to show appreciation to these individuals for their unfailing commitment to the success of all students. The staff and students of our district applaud our board members for their vision and voice to help shape a better tomorrow.

The men and women currently serving Hempstead ISD are President Ricky Pearce, Vice President Scott Bush, Secretary Connie Wawarofsky, Trustee



HISD is honoring all board members for their service. Shown is (l-r) Matthew Menke, Scott Bush, Dr. Angela Gutsch, Sharlonda Rutledge, Connie Wawarofsky, Tina Johnson, Ricky Pearce, and Odis Styers III. HISD Public Information.

Tina Johnson, Trustee Matthew Menke, Trustee Sharlonda Rutledge, and Trustee Odis Styers III.

This year's theme "Heroes for Schools" is perfect to call to mind the many ways our local school board members contribute to the education of our students. Local school board members are truly heroes for our schools.

Usually, we don't think of school board members as school volunteers, but they do in fact volunteer to serve. School board members give their time, energy, and counsel to the school district—without pay. They take on the job of governing the district—making the best decisions they can for our children—with the full understanding that they will receive only the satisfaction of their contribution.

That contribution, however, should not be understated. The volunteer efforts of the school board members have the potential for tremendous benefit to the community as a whole and

to the lives of the students individually. By serving the district in this important governance role, school board members lay the foundation for the future.

Board members shoulder critical responsibilities and often make difficult choices. Their ultimate goal is always focused on the future success of the children in our district.

At a time when we face difficult choices over budgetary priorities, a commitment to education and to children must stand absolutely firm. We have a sacred obligation to put our children's needs first and to make the essential investments that will help them succeed in our increasingly complex society.

School board members donate many hours of their time—preparing for meetings, attending meetings, and attending school-related functions and events. They serve countless hours working to make public education the best it can be for every child and receive no monetary compensation for their

service. In a climate of change and challenge, they develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues that affect the entire community and the lives of individual students.

These men and women bear responsibility and oversight in Hempstead ISD for an annual budget of approximately \$16 million; over 1650 students in grades PK to 12th grade; a little over 230 employees; and three campuses.

The men and women who make the time to generously provide this important public service do so because they care. They care about their own children's education. They care about the schools being the best they can be. They care about the next generation and the future of the community and the state.

These people roll up their sleeves and get involved to improve things. It is a selfless accepting of responsibility for the educational process that helps our children grow into successful, joyful adults. Board members are true "super heroes" for our kids.

America's school boards help lead the way in this endeavor. By setting high expectations for student achievement, supporting successful teaching and learning, and linking schools with their communities, trustees empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to become productive, responsible citizens.

Preparing today's students to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow is a tremendous task. As elected officials, school board members are the voice of their communities, serving first and foremost in the best interest of our students.

Great leadership always begins with a willing heart, a positive attitude, and a desire to make a difference. Please join us as we applaud these local leaders and take a moment to thank a school board member for caring about the future of our children and giving so much to our community.

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WISD School Board members are super-heroes for schools

WISD Public Information

January 2016 is School Board Recognition Month, and Waller ISD joins other districts across Texas as they honor the countless contributions of these locally elected advocates for public education.

The Waller ISD School Board of Trustees has several key roles and responsibilities. They ensure the creation of a vision and goals for the district, and evaluate district success, adopt policies that inform district actions, hire a superintendent to serve as the chief



President Bryan Lowe



Vice President Gary Buchanan



Secretary Joe Landin

communities to show appreciation to these individuals for their unfailing commitment to the success of all students. TASB's School Board Appreciation Month theme this year is Super-Heroes for Schools. The staff and students of Waller ISD applaud our board members for their vision and voice to help shape a better tomorrow for the students' benefit.

Serving as a crucial link between the community and classroom, this board is responsible for an annual budget of \$67 million, 6,550 students, more than 800 employees, and eight campuses.

Please take a moment and tell your School Board members thank you for caring about our children and giving so much to our community! Let them know that you support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.

Each Waller ISD School Board of Trustee represents the Waller ISD's motto, All About Kids, as they repeatedly save the day in our community. We proudly salute our School Board's super-members for being super-heroes for schools, and for their year-round volunteer commitment.



Member David Kaminski



Member Ronald Campbell



Member Kim Parmer



Member Michael Prince

executive officer of the district and evaluate the superintendent's success. They also approve an annual budget consistent with the district vision and communicate the district's vision and success to the community.

The Waller ISD School Board consists of School Board President Bryan Lowe, who has served on

the Board since 1988. Vice President Gary Buchanan began his term in 2012, and Secretary Joe Landin began his term in 2011. School Board of Trustees: David Kaminski, who has served on the Board since 1997; Ronald Campbell, who has served on the Board since 2012; Kim Parmer, who has served on the Board since 2009;

and Dr. Michael W. Prince, who has served on the Board since 2009.

Serving on a local school board is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of rapid change and financial uncertainties. These men and women are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public

schools. They tackle a difficult job and shoulder enormous responsibilities. Overall, they represent the Waller ISD community and take their leadership roles seriously by attending lengthy meetings broadening their knowledge at conferences and seminars and talking about the schools with business leaders, parents, and neighbors.

These dedicated elected members work without pay. As a result, each year the Texas Association of School Boards TASB encourages

COMMISSIONERS Continued from page 1A

to the court, "If this amount is not transferred, it will be found in our audit, making it negative, triggering a state audit. It could also affect our credit rating."

Commissioner Pct. 3, Jeron Barnett stated that with all the

building renovations and new construction on the table, that keeping the county on a sound financial footing is important.

According to Boehnke, the funds come entirely from the state, with no cost to the county,

and are already in the budget for 2016.

After the discussion, commissioners voted unanimously to amend the 2015 budget to accommodate the \$14,250 stipend.

TEXAS Continued from page 1A


Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. In Texas, licensed open carry requires a permit, which includes a 4-6 hour course conducted by a DPS officer.

In anomalous or rural open carry states, the legality of open carry varies within the state, according to local policies, and is usually regulated in regards to population. California, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon and Pennsylvania are rural carry states.

Other states allow no open carry at all, including Florida, Illinois, New York, and South Carolina, along with the District of Columbia.

Nationally, more than twice as many Americans hold concealed carry permits than seven years ago, with numbers of permit holders rising from 4.6 million to over 12.8 million. Murder rates have fallen during the same period from 5.6 killings per 100,000 to 4.2 per 100,000, about a 23% drop, according to the Crime Prevention Institute.

Some businesses in Texas have opted out of open carry. A list of some of these businesses include: Chuck E. Cheese, Cinkmark Theaters, Costco, Fiesta, HEB, Houston Zoo, IKEA, Sonic Drive-In, Target, The Galleria Mall, and Whataburger. Businesses that prohibit open carry are required to post signage stating that their business prohibits weapons on their premises.



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Specializing in Waller County Real Estate For Over 30 Years

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2 Locations to Serve You Better!
WALLER (936) 372-9181 HEMPSTEAD (979) 826-4133
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ACREAGE

SMALL ACREAGE: Many tracts to choose fromCALL OR GO ONLINE.....FOR DETAILS

10 ACRES: Wooded tract in scenic North Waller County. Lightly restricted with community water. Waller ISD.....\$13,500/ac.

10 ACRES: Unrestricted & to be surveyed out of larger parcel. Fronts FM 1488 - perfect for your home or business!.....PENDING.....\$15,000/ac.

15.88 ACRES: Quiet location in North Waller county, great for a new home site or for cows or horses. Access from Mellman Road\$17,512/ac.

16.44 ACRES: Wide open land and unrestricted! Perfect for whatever your heart desires! Overlooks high-fenced exotic game ranch and picturesque countryside. Fenced on 3 sides. Ready for cattle, recreation or your new homesite!.....\$25,000/ac.

21 ACRES: Ag-exempt property on Old Joseph road. Quiet, secluded and heavily-wooded - a perfect retreat!\$16,000/ac.

27.34 ACRES: Unrestricted acreage in Sealy, just south of I-10 on FM 3013. Electricity, well, septic & 2 ponds on property. Ag exempt.....\$15,500/ac.

30.63 ACRES: Great commercial potential. 82' frontage on US 290. Next to Motel & Gas Station/Convenience store in Hempstead. City water available. 2 ponds, water well & septic next to mobile home site.....\$39,176/ac.

36 ACRES: in north Waller County. Pond, large trees & choice homesites. Unrestricted.....\$11,000/ac.

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

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

63 ACRES: Field Store Rd. & US Hwy 290 - Excellent location for residential or commercial development. City water & sewer. Rapidly growing area. Ag exempt\$1.06/sq. ft.

88 ACRES: Great investment/commercial potential! Located 1 mile from 290. Existing infrastructure includes 6BR brick home w/pool, large shop with office, storage bldgs, walk-in cooler, well & septic, tree-lined asphalt driveway, chain link security fence on 3 sides. Ready for development!.....\$2,650,000/ac.

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

HOMES

HEMPSTEAD: 3/2 with new carpet, paint and mini-blinds! Lots of windows make this one light and bright! Just a few blocks from Business 290, close to shopping!\$67,900

LAKESIDE ESTATES: Manufactured home sits on 0.34 acres right across from lake! 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with living room, den and addition. Also has 2-car carport and large front yard with lake view!\$78,500

PRAIRIE VIEW: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, well-maintained home complete with attached 2-car garage, built-ins and fireplace in living room\$130,000

OAK HOLLOW: Beautifully kept home in Oak Hollow subdivision featuring many upgrades including wood burning fireplace, large kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 full size bathroom and office with built ins! Extra large lot adds to this beauty!\$135,000

COUNTRY ESCAPE: 1,200 sq. ft. 1-1 home on 3.3 acres. Nicely landscaped with covered front porch, deck, hot tub and large workshop.....PRICE REDUCED.....\$160,000

PRAIRIE VIEW: 3-bedroom, 2-bath brick & wood home. Isolated living room, large family room with fireplace, sun room, large master bedroom, island cooktop in kitchen, double car attached garage, utility room & lots of storage. Fenced backyard.....\$185,000

RICE ROAD: Recently updated home with new roof, flooring, fresh paint and light fixtures. 4 unrestricted acres with workshop and lots of trees!\$195,000

WALLER COUNTY CLUB: Beautifully updated 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home complete with 40x40 airplane hangar! New septic pump, fresh paint, new flooring, completely overhauled bathrooms & closets, immaculate kitchen, the list of upgrades is lengthy!.....PENDING.....\$245,000

WALLER COUNTY CLUB: Beautiful home on 3 lots! This home features updated kitchen, extra large laundry, 2-car garage with workshop, screened-in porch and large oak trees.....\$250,000

LOG CABIN: Beautiful log cabin that you must see to appreciate. Constructed using 8"D-logs of white pine - home is well insulated. Low utilities & taxes. Large wood burning fireplace. A/C replaced 2 yrs. ago. High ceilings. Beautiful wood floors. Huge metal constructed shop - well insulated w/ full bath and roll up doors.....\$298,000

HOME WITH ACREAGE: Beautiful country home on 2 acres with light restrictions. Pasture in front and behind home for extra privacy and awesome sunrises and sunsets! Lovely pool to enjoy all those hot Texas days along with oversized patio to entertain on\$315,000

MONAVILLE RANCH: Scattered hardwoods, 2 ponds, branch to Irons Creek, rolling terrain makes this 12.5 acres a beautiful country property! Two manufactured homes, a cowboy cabin, several outbuildings, barn, fishing pier, large covered deck with hot tub\$400,000

COUNTRY ESTATE: These 3 acres are full of gorgeous hardwoods & park-like scenery. Custom features throughout 4,176 sq. ft. home, 5-4.5-3, back patio, chefs kitchen, crown molding, coffered ceilings, hardwood floors. Enjoy the fireplace, whirlpool tub and granite counter with vanity in your master suite!\$510,000

HOCKLEY ESTATE: 25-acre property boasts 2 homes with room to grow! 1/4 mile driveway offers great privacy. Home #1 is barnominium constructed in 2012 with countless amenities. Home #2 is a 2015 manufactured 3-bedroom, 2-bath.....\$899,000

67 ACRE ESTATE: Tucked away in the woods just beyond the city enjoy serenity with a view. Custom home built with attention to detail, deep large porches on all 4 sides provides max outdoor living space, beautiful stone and wood work, huge master with fireplace and sitting area, 20' cathedral ceiling in living room, quality wood & slate floors, standing seam metal roof, oversize 3-car carport, landscaping with irrigation system. Low taxes as wildlife exempt in place.....PENDING\$1,250,000

183 ACRE RANCH: Slightly rolling terrain, open pastures & hay meadows with mature trees & heavily-wooded areas. This beautiful property includes 2 homes with 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms each with amazing porches! Great for entertaining, hunting, horseback riding, 4-wheeling & shooting. Perimeter fenced w/ag & timber exemption\$2,800,000

MULTI-FAMILY

Prairie View Duplex: 2 1-bedroom units, screened-in front porch, ideal student housing, excellent location for future development, in need of "TLC".....\$88,000

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.....\$475,000

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

WALLER RENTAL: Great office building for professional, retail or medical use! This 1,300 sq ft space holds 4 "exam" rooms, reception desk/window, waiting room, break room/kitchen and 2 bathrooms. Signage opportunities available on building and at road frontage!.....\$900/mo.

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

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.

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

30.63 ACRES: Great commercial potential. 82' frontage on US 290. Next to Motel & Gas Station/Convenience store in Hempstead. City water available. 2 ponds, water well & septic next to mobile home site.....\$39,176/ac.

63 ACRES: Field Store Rd & US Hwy 290 - Excellent location for residential or commercial development. City water & sewer. Rapidly growing area. Ag exempt.....\$1.06/sq. ft.

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

WALLER: 0.982 acres with three steel-frame buildings totaling 8,840 sq. ft plus a 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence with fenced yard! 16-camera security system, city utilities, no flood plain and 3-phase electric.....\$595,000

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.....\$1,299,000

88 ACRES: Great investment/commercial potential! Located 1 mile from 290. Existing infrastructure includes 6BR brick home w/pool, large shop with office, storage bldgs, walk-in cooler, well & septic, tree-lined asphalt driveway, chain link security fence on 3 sides. Ready for development!.....\$2,650,000



RICE ROAD: Recently updated home with new roof, flooring, fresh paint and light fixtures. 4 unrestricted acres with workshop and lots of trees!.....\$195,000



WALLER COUNTRY CLUB: Beautiful home on 3 lots! This home features updated kitchen, extra large laundry, 2-car garage with workshop, screened-in porch and large oak trees.....\$250,000



MONAVILLE RANCH: Scattered hardwoods, 2 ponds, branch to Irons Creek, rolling terrain makes this 12.5 acres a beautiful country property! Two manufactured homes, a cowboy cabin, several outbuildings, barn, fishing pier, large covered deck with hot tub.....\$400,000

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4440 3-2-2 Brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre.....PENDING.....\$212,000



4479 4-3-2 Brick home on 2 acres, beautiful trees, pond, two fireplaces, fenced.....\$235,000



4452 3-3-1-3 Ranch style home with circle drive, fruit trees, workshop, cross fenced, recent roof, ag exempt.....\$474,900



4349 388 Acres, rail fencing, stables, 8 acre lake, irrigated hay field, tennis courts, main home shaded by majestic oaks.....\$4,225,000



4471 3-2 Brick home in wonderful country setting, pens, barn perfect for 4H or FFA project, carport and large deck for entertaining.....\$210,000



4449 Commercial building on 2 acres with Hwy frontage, all equipment included.....\$495,000

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

- 4359 1-1-1 Brick home in Hempstead\$69,000
- 4375 3-2 Home in town with a smaller home also on property.....\$65,000
- 4391 5 Small homes on 3 city lots, investment potential\$250,000
- 4441 3-2.1/2 Two story home on two and a half acres with mature trees, large island kitchen, gated entrance\$495,000
- 4454 Nice brick 3-2 home on corner lot with large shade trees, fireplace, hardwood flooring ...\$139,000

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- 4088 80 Acres, barns, storage shed, lake, beautiful land\$2,258,760
- 4267 9 Acres, FM 2920 frontage, excellent development location\$1,300,000
- 4275 9+ Acres, Tomball area, ag exempt, FM 2920 frontage.....\$750,000
- 4276 318 Acres, Peek Rd in Katy, excellent location.....\$11,130,000
- 4309 Three lots with city utilities, curbs, close to schools and shopping.....\$35,000
- 4349 388 Acres, rail fencing, stables, 8 acre lake, irrigated hay field, tennis courts, main home shaded by majestic oaks\$4,225,000
- 4360 Corner lot in city with utilities.....\$4,500
- 4374 10 Acres in subdivision, deed restrictions, Waller ISD.....\$435,600
- 4386 160 Acres with lots of frontage, water well, FM frontage, could be divided\$2,486,820
- 4411 Lots in City of Waller, corner property, scattered trees, recently cleared\$27,900
- 4421 Beautiful 97 acres, brick home, barn, pond, scattered trees, close to Hwy. 290.....\$2,764,500
- 4432 Unrestricted lot, commercial or residential, community water.....\$165,000
- 4435 4-3-2 75 Acres, large scattered oaks, ag exempt, community water available\$1,027,000
- 4437 3-2-1 Home, open floorpan, island kitchen on 4 acres, beautiful scattered tree\$225,000
- 4440 3-2-2 Brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre.....PENDING.....\$212,000

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- 4448 40 Acres, Hwy 290 visible frontage, currently in ag use\$1,408,400
- 4449 Commercial building on 2 acres with Hwy frontage, all equipment included\$495,000
- 4451 42.5 Acres, scattered trees, corner property, can be divided.....\$638,640
- 4452 3-3-1-3 Ranch style home with circle drive, fruit trees, workshop, cross fenced, recent roof, ag exempt\$474,900
- 4455 11+ Acres, heavily wooded, secluded, lots of wildlife, Waller ISD\$146,212
- 4464 15 Rolling acres with pond, main home has many updates, above ground pool and hot tub, 2 additional homes for rental income\$650,000
- 4470 3 + Acres, FM frontage, Brookshire area, unrestricted.....\$124,990
- 4471 3-2 Brick home in wonderful country setting, pens, barn perfect for 4H or FFA project, carport and large deck for entertaining.....\$210,000
- 4472 Commercial or residential, Hwy 6 frontage, 7 acres, with manufactured home, 2 storage buildings, 2 car carport, unrestricted.....\$219,000
- 4473 3-2.1-2 2 Story home with wrap around porch, oversized garage, barn with rollup doors and bunkhouse, seasonal creek, plenty of wildlife, beautiful large trees, secluded on 17 + acres.....\$589,900
- 4474 34 Acres with frontage on 2 sides, live creek, pond, 6 stall horse barn with tack room and wash rack, 2 septic systems and a well\$597,500
- 4477 3-2.1-2 4 Acres great for commercial development, FM 2920 frontage\$958,320
- 4478 2 Acres, unrestricted, well and septic in place, community water also available, FM frontage\$79,500
- 4479 4-3-2 Brick home on 2 acres, beautiful trees, pond, two fireplaces, fenced\$235,000

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