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Scripture of the Week
REVELATION 3:20
 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

THE WALLER TIMES

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VOLUME 24 NUMBER 20

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Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 12 Pages, 2 Sections

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TCEQ 2014 Report Admits to Leaking Landfills

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

In Waller County, the fight against the proposed solid waste municipal landfill, proposed to be located near Hempstead and U.S. Hwy. 290, has only just begun.

One claim made by Pintail, LLC, was that due to plastic liners, landfills do not leak and are therefore not a hazard to the water supply. However, a recently released TCEQ 2014 report belies that persistent claim. According to the documents, 55 landfills are leaking toxic chemicals into the water supply. Five of those landfills are located in the Houston area.

But, wait! Remember the claims by Pintail LLC that the proposed landfill in Waller County will only contain household garbage, not hazardous industrial waste and would therefore be environmentally friendly? And aren't these landfills lined with thick plastic to prevent them from leaking into groundwater?

Well, not exactly. According to Steve Hupp, formerly of Harris County Pollution Control, safeguards like liners can tear, and when they do, polluted liquids

can seep into shallow groundwater, as has been confirmed by the recent TCEQ reports. The contaminated water can then move into our bayous, streams and bays.

What are the contaminants in household waste? Products that are regularly thrown away in household trash that are possible contaminants, referred to by environmentalists as HHW (household hazardous waste) include: cleaners, light bulbs, fuels, mercury, paints, pesticides, chlorine, wood stains, and varnishes. All of these items can be hazardous if a landfill leaks.

Texans need to note that several bills are under consideration by the 84th Texas Legislature that, if passed, would diminish local control and preempt local ordinances in regards to landfills. HB 1247, HB 1865, and SB 709 would reduce the rights of local residents concerning permitting of new polluting facilities.

Bills that would benefit those affected by a municipal solid waste landfill or other polluting facility are HB 281 and HB 1284. Both would require TCEQ to consider comments from legislators from affected districts prior to any new or expansion permit is issued. The

bills also prohibit TCEQ from issuing a permit unless approved by resolution of the local governing body.

To express concerns or opinions on these bills, Waller County residents may reach State Rep. Cecil Bell by email at www.house.state.tx.us/members or State Senator Lois Kolkhorst at Kolkhorst.senate.state.tx.us/. Rep. Bell (or staff) may also be reached by phone at his office at 512-463-0650, and Senator Kolkhorst at 512-463-0118.

One remedy for reducing the risk for contaminated groundwater, according to Melanie Scruggs, with Texas Campaign for the Environment, is to recycle. Recycling has been a tough sell in Texas; however, since there's lots of land which makes it cheaper just to bury the garbage.

Environmentalists contend that burying garbage may be cheap, but the price of a leaking landfill is insurmountable in its effects on human and animal life.

Find the 2014 Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report online at the TCEQ website: www.tceq.state.tx.us/.

Commissioners Court Approves Intervention in SOAH Hearing

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

On Wednesday, April 8, the Waller County Commissioners Court met in regular session at 9 a.m. in the Waller County Courthouse. Commissioners Justin Beckendorff, Jeron Barnett, Russell Klecka, and John Amsler were present and County Judge Trey Duhon presided.

In a unanimous vote of solidarity, the court passed a Resolution authorizing the Waller County Commissioners Court to intervene in the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) in opposition of Pintail Landfill, LLC's application for municipal solid waste permit No. 2377, scheduled to take place this August in Austin.

In regards to the Resolution, Commissioner Amsler stated, "It's the right thing to do--to engage in an active, visible display of interest in this fight."

Commissioner Beckendorff supported the resolution, but added that passing this resolution was not a "blank check" to the law firm, but only an agreement at this time to file with the state a

petition which would allow Waller County to participate actively with the City of Hempstead and CALH in the SOAH in August.

Judge Duhon announced that for the first time, Waller County received the Platinum Member Leadership Circle Award for financial transparency. Waller County is one of only 45 counties (out of 254) that achieved the platinum level.

Duhon thanked County Auditor Alan Younts, in recognition of his assistance in gaining the Platinum Level Award, for his addition of the financial transparency tab on the county website.

In further business, a presentation was made by J.D. Head of Fritz, Byrne, Head & Harrison, PLLC (Environmental Law) regarding devising a comprehensive waste management plan for Waller County.

According to Head, although Health and Safety Code states that each county is to have a waste management plan, such has not been the case because the cost of the plan is to be funded through

See SOAH page 4A



Although not visible in Waller County due to overcast skies, this photo was taken before dawn on April 4 (Jewish Passover) over Arizona where the skies were clear. The lunar eclipse lasted only four minutes and was seen at locations throughout the world. Internet photo.

Tractor Supply Company Announces Construction is Underway

Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retail store chain in the United States, recently announced that construction is underway on its new location in Waller next to the Holiday Inn Express on FM 2920. It will be the Company's 162nd location in Texas.

The Waller Tractor Supply store will be located at 31360 FM 2920 Road, and will employ an estimated 15 full- and part-time team members. The store will be approximately 18,800 square feet, including sales floor and support service space. A fenced exterior space will be used for storage and displaying items such as fencing, sprayers and livestock equipment.

"Tractor Supply looks forward to being a member of the Waller community," said District Manager Kyle Johnson. "Waller

is a great fit for Tractor Supply due to the horse owners and part-time and hobby farmers in the area. Many of our new customers are pleasantly surprised by our unique mix of product offerings, which in addition to farm products and hardware, also includes pet food and supplies and clothing items for the entire family."

The contractor for the project, Bingham Construction of Marble Falls, Texas, began construction on March 2. A completion date has been tentatively set for late August.

Tractor Supply Company operates more than 1,360 stores in 49 states. Located in the outlying towns in major metropolitan markets and in rural communities, Tractor Supply Company stores are focused on supplying the lifestyle needs of recreational farmers and ranchers and oth-

ers who enjoy the rural lifestyle, as well as tradesmen and small businesses.

The Company offers a comprehensive selection of merchandise for the health, care, growth and containment of horses, live-

stock and pets including select Purina and Nutrena brand feeds; hardware, truck, towing and tool products; and seasonal products, including lawn and garden items, power equipment, gifts and toys.

In addition, the company

sells work/recreational clothing and footwear for the entire family and maintenance products for agricultural and rural use.

For more information on Tractor Supply, access the website at www.TractorSupply.com.

Tax Rebates to Cities Declines in March

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

According to the State Comptroller's Office, the City of Waller's tax rebate from January sales, reported to the State Comptroller's Office in February and distributed to local cities in March, is down slightly to \$136,504.17, which reflects a slower 4.88% growth rate, down significantly from the 29.02% growth rate experienced in 2014.

A decline in the tax rebate was also experienced in Hempstead, down to \$97,744.00. However, Hempstead's overall rebate is up, rising 12.74% over 2014. In Brookshire, the March rebate declined to \$86,296.99, a decrease of -13.09% over 2014.

Prairie View's rebate was risen slightly to \$40,954.10, an 8.74% increase over 2014.

According to Texas State comptroller Glenn Hegar, tax revenue is up 11.7% compared

to 2014, which marks the 59th consecutive month of growth in the Texas economy.

Hegar stated, "This is an encouraging sign that Texas' diverse economic engine continues to drive spending growth in households and businesses all over the state. And despite the decline in oil and natural gas prices, tax receipts from oil and natural gas sectors were once again up sharply over last year."

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Waller Wonders - Should old acquaintance be forgot ...

By NANCY ARNOLD



Rudos to the Waller High School Class of 1965 for putting on such a terrific all-school reunion on Saturday. It was so much fun, and you're gonna wish you had been there when I tell you about it!

But first, just in case you're not "up" on the tradition, the annual reunion, held each spring, is hosted by the class celebrating their 50th graduation anniversary (so next year belongs to the class of 1966). And what a lovely tradition it is.

math (it's okay to count on your fingers), you'll discover that just the mailing alone was eating up about \$450. So a few years back, a committee pared down the list to a respectable 200 or so names, still a cost of over \$100.

A further refinement is that if an alum hasn't attended in the past four years, their name is removed from the active mailing list. They can always be added on request, of course, but this seemed a fair method to control costs. All the area newspapers get a notice, classmates talk amongst themselves, plus we have Facebook and Twitter and such, so the word gets around.

The main activity for the reunion is visiting with former classmates and teachers. This isn't a party in the strictest sense - although it is quite festive. There's no band ... not even music playing in the background ... just a steady hum of conversations and laughter as everyone catches up on kids and grandkids, knee/hip/shoulder replacements, vacations, work (and retirement!) ... you know, the stuff around which our lives revolve.

John Reinhardt was the president of the '65 class, and he served as the emcee. He opened the meeting by calling upon all the men of the class to lead the assembly in the pledge to the flag, while his wife, and fellow

classmate, Sandy, nee' Imhof, gave the opening prayer.

A very touching and solemn moment at the top of the program was a roll call of departed classmates. As John read the names, Richard Jones lit a memory candle in front of each classmate's framed senior photo: Dorothy Linseisen Nichols, Gerald Robertson, Billy McCarver, Rex Glueck, Larry Musil, Johnny Dreahn, and Wayne Hall.

It's always fun to give special recognition to folks, and Ruth Sanford Bonner took home the bouquet for the honor of being as the sole member present from the class of 1945, the earliest class represented. Several alumnae came from afar, but Lila Stephenson Peterson traveled all the way from Boone, North Carolina, winning that prize hands-down.

That being said, I have to mention that Peggy Davis Albert, from right here in Waller, actually traveled the greatest distance. She was chairing the reunion committee, and deep into all the details, when she suffered what could have been a devastating stroke.

Brain surgery followed, and she's still undergoing therapy. But she was at the reunion, smile as bright as ever, and having a grand time. What a journey, Peggy, and we salute you on your "trip."

Although not a "prize" category, I suspect that Ted and

Barbara (Divin) Arnold, class of 1974, were the youngest in the room. That's an informal guess, you understand; but they certainly had the fewest wrinkles!

Getting in the front door takes a while at this shindig, because of all the hugging and laughter at spotting someone you haven't seen in 20 or 30 - or even 50 years! That's a large part of the fun, of course. However, this year, Sandy Reinhardt gave everyone a compelling reason to move on into the room. She assembled a wall of pictures from yearbooks going back into the '40s - beautifully displayed, and eliciting six kinds of excitement from the crowd. "Who was she?" and "Does anyone remember this?" were just some of the excited questions passing back and forth.

But wait! as the commercial says; there's more! The next display was also wonderfully done, displaying all manner of memorabilia, including a maroon letter jacket (John's, I'll bet), certificates, yearbooks, report cards ... if it was generated in school, it was there. Boy, did all of that bring back some great memories - the best kinds, too.

Folks were excited to see former classmates, and disappointed to discover that someone they had

See ARNOLD page 3B

Editorial... We're Watching

By STEPHEN JOHNSON, Publisher

The Waller Times
In last week's edition of The Waller Times, Columnist Carrie Prazak-Gourley reminded the local citizenry of the importance of We the People and what we must expect from our local government officials. This week, she reminds us again that taxpayer-supported entities should be held accountable for their transparency - or lack thereof.

On separate occasions over the past few years, We the People elected out of office some officials we did not trust to handle our local governmental affairs. This is our "power of the pen" so to speak in getting done what we believe is good and just. Elections are held locally at least every two years, and in each election, there are people running for offices at city, school, county, state and federal levels.

We still have some work to do. All of our elected officials are paid for by tax money that comes from We the People. Some officials serve their constituents at no cost to the taxpayer such as City Council members, School Board Trustees, and various other boards that serve the public good. In addition, there are hundreds, if not thousands of government and school employees who are paid their salaries with taxpayer money. Each

of these representatives of taxpayer-supported money should be held accountable by We the People.

As we see every day throughout our society, accountability is rare. Politicians are in the news almost every day performing all kinds of misdeeds and are rarely held accountable, even when the misdeeds are brought to the public light. Locally, it gets more interesting.

Of all of the Waller County governmental entities, only two regularly sends their weekly or monthly agendas to The Waller Times. We do not have to ask for it and it never ceases to show up in advance of their meetings. This should be the practice of every entity that is taxpayer-supported, including the school districts. Because we know what is planned at the meetings, it gives us - and the general public - an advance opportunity to ask questions and try to understand how our tax money is being spent.

No local media outlet has the capacity of covering every meeting, even the Houston "big boys". It just isn't feasible. But when we see something questionable, we should have the opportunity to ask questions and publish our findings, even if it doesn't look good for our community. (This opportunity

See EDITORIAL page 2B

Law Enforcement and Public Accountability... What Do Citizens Have a Right to Know?

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY



Law enforcement is vital to the safety of our society, and in Texas the "Thin Blue Line" has always been held in a position of honor and respect.

However, since law enforcement also wields a great deal of power, and is a tax-paying entity entirely supported by citizens, it must be accountable and transparent to the citizens of a community in order to maintain effectiveness.

Governor Greg Abbott released in 2014 a Handbook on Public Information in which he stated, "Our republic was

founded on the principle of self-government--implicit in the idea of self-government is the notion that the public should know what their government is doing."

So what does the public have the right to know in regards to law enforcement documents in Texas?

According to the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press' "Open Government Guide", the following guidelines exist for law enforcement transparency in Texas:

1) Accident reports revealing the date of the accident, the persons involved and its location, along with towing and 911 call records are only available to be released to a petitioner provided the individual knows 2 of 3 pieces of information: date, person, and location.

2) Police "blotter" or "show up sheet" and arrest sheet are not exempt from disclosure. These "arrest sheets" containing an arrestee's name, age, place of arrest, names of arresting officers and offense

for which the subject is arrested are required to be released.

3) Tape recordings of calls made to 911 are public information, even if held by a 911 network district.

The Texas Public Information Act does exempt from release the names of sexual assault victims, names of police informants, and internal law enforcement detection and investigation methods.

One problem related to transparency in law enforcement is that the PIA exempts release of records dealing with law enforcement active investigations as stated in Section 552.108 of the Texas Govt. Code. Under this clause, police departments can withhold information from the public for lengthy periods of time.

Therefore, in a sense, law enforcement has discretion on public records in its possession that may become information in an investigation or prosecution, which can limit the ability of citizens to keep a check on government power.

A new study conducted

by San Diego State University has found that law enforcement agencies that are overseen by a civilian review board are more transparent, especially those affiliated with a national non-profit like the National Association for Civilian Oversight.

As for police incident reports in Waller County, they can be acquired in person at police departments or at the Waller County Sheriff's Office for a nominal fee, by filling out a public information request in person or by fax (for the Sheriff's Office).

Access to this information varies all over the state of Texas. Some police departments and sheriff's departments in Texas have the availability of accessing information such as accident and incident reports online, and some law enforcement agencies post all incident reports on their website. This wide variation in policies makes transparency dependent on the discretion of each department.

Another problem with transparency can occur when a law enforcement agency relies solely on social media such as Facebook or uses their own website to release information about crimes or disasters. This allows departments to tailor the information released to the public, especially since many law enforcement agencies do not release incident reports unless a public information requests it to be filed.

Of course, social media and the internet can be a great addition to public transparency, but should not be used as a sole source of information given to the public by law enforcement and should not replace total media access to information.

A fundamental issue remains. If the public reports a crime, and the police record that information -- the basic who, what, when and where in an offense report that starts the process of investigating, shouldn't that information be available to the public?

Unfortunately, as previously stated, in Texas there is no uniformity to the availability of information. Some cities post all arrest records online,

See GOURLEY page 5B

News Briefs

WCFA Mandatory Breeding Doe Meeting Set

The Waller County Breeding Doe Mandatory exhibitors meeting has been set for April 16, 2015 at 7 pm. At the Waller County Fairgrounds. For more information, please email Wendy Caldwell at caldwellwendy2@gmail.com.

BP MS-150 Bike Ride Set for April 18-19

The 31st Annual BP MS 150 Bike Ride, a two-day fundraising bike ride organized by the National MS Society, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 2015. The ride is the largest event of its kind in North America with 13,000 cyclists, many from Waller County, who will embark on the 180-mile journey that starts in Houston and ends in Austin. The ride begins Saturday morning at three convenient starting points: Waller ISD Stadium, on Stokes Rd., in Waller, Tully Stadium in Houston, and Rhodes Stadium in Katy. For more information or to donate, visit them online at www.ms150.org.

Mandatory Rabbit Exhibitor Meeting Set

A mandatory exhibitor meeting for all Waller County Fair Rabbit Exhibitors will be held on April 19 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Barbara Carpenter Building at the Waller County Fairgrounds. This meeting is mandatory so if the exhibitor and parent/guardian do not attend, the exhibitor will not be allowed to show at the Waller County Fair. For more information, email Mandy Garrett at mandygarrattmoney@yahoo.com.

Sowell Family Pickers to Visit Shiloh Baptist

The Sowell Family Pickers, a family bluegrass band, will be at Shiloh Baptist Church on FM 1098 behind Prairie View University, on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Area residents are encouraged to attend this free event.

Christ Lutheran Plans German Sausage Dinner

The 32nd Annual German Sausage Dinner of Christ Lutheran Church in Pattison will be held Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Adults tickets are \$10 and children under 12 eat for \$6. Dine-in or drive-thru is available. A bake sale is also planned along with a silent auction from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and a live auction that is set to begin at 1 p.m. Live music from the Band - Al Sulak & The Country Sounds is slated and there will be a children's fun area and door prizes. The church is located at 35912 Royal Rd @ Hwy 359, three miles north of Brookshire. For more information, call the church at 281-934-8218.

WISD Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Set

Waller ISD parents can begin step one of enrolling new Kindergarten and Pre-K students online on April 18. Completing the New Student Enrollment Online Application is the first step of the registration process, and is required to enroll all new students. After completing Step 1 of enrolling online, Step 2 of the registration process is to bring all required documents to your designated attendance zone campus on May 6 for new Kindergarten students, and May 7 and May 8 for new Pre-Kindergarten student registration. Registration times on these dates will be 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. To inquire about the elementary school that your child will be attending, call Transportation Department at 936-372-2116. Visit www.wallerisd.net for the New Student Enrollment Online Application and for new student registration requirements and information. For more information, call 936-931-3685.

THE WALLER TIMES

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The Waller Times welcomes you, the reader, to submit club news, community and church news, school news or farm and ranch news. We do, however, reserve the right to edit all news items for length, as well as controversial subjects or anything that may be libelous or slanderous. Please email your news articles to the email address above. Deadline is Fridays by 12 noon.

NOTICE

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may happen to appear in the columns of THE WALLER TIMES, will gladly be corrected if brought to the attention of the management.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor, however, all letters must be signed by the author. Upon request, your signature can be withheld from publication. We will not publish unsigned Letters to the Editor. We also reserve the right to edit for length, libelous or slanderous remarks.

ELECTION SEASON POLICY

It is the policy of The Waller Times to withhold all election campaign information, including, but not limited to, election campaign events and appearances, during an election season consisting of three months. All electoral candidate information, campaign events, campaign fundraisers, campaign town halls, etc. must be submitted as paid advertisements during the three-month period that precedes an election. Prior to and proceeding election season, we reserve the right to edit all election and candidate news for length, as well as controversial subject matter or anything that may be libelous or slanderous. It is not the policy of The Waller Times to include a free candidate profile at any time. All candidate profiles must be submitted as advertisements unless it is a part of an editorial column or staff article.

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Senator Kolkhorst Passes First Bills as Senator

Recently, the Texas Senate passed two bills authored by State Senator Lois Kolkhorst, the first legislation for her to pass as a member of the Texas Senate.

In passing Senate Bill 759, Kolkhorst repeals two state taxes. The first tax abolished is currently applied to the rental of premises for conducting bingo, a popular pastime in much of her Senate District 18. The second tax repealed in her bill is regarding liquefied gas (LPG) used to power motor vehicles. By eliminating both of

these taxes, Kolkhorst said that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will now be able to focus resources on more productive areas of the state's tax laws.

"There's a reason the first bill I've passed as a Texas Senator is to cut taxes. Texas is a national leader because we are constantly looking for ways to lower our tax burden. That's why I've worked with our Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar to craft a bill to eliminate taxes that were not worth the time and effort to collect."

In passing Senate Bill 791, also known as "Maddie's Law," Kolkhorst calls for increased public education and outreach programs to inform women of the risks, symptoms, and treatment of Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV). The bill calls for a screening for CMV if an infant does not pass their initial newborn hearing screening. Kolkhorst named the bill "Maddie's Law" based on Maddie Armstrong, who was a Ft. Bend county infant who succumbed to CMV.

"There is a severe lack of

information given to the public on how to prevent CMV and every year more infants die or are permanently disabled from an infection that could have been prevented," said Kolkhorst. "Texas is going to be a national leader in preventing infant deaths and permanent disabilities from a preventable infection like CMV. I am proud to author and pass this legislation on behalf of my constituents who have been touched by CMV."

Texas Senate District 18 includes Waller County.

Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst Passes SB 474 Protecting Landowners' Property Rights

In passing Senate Bill 474, Kolkhorst's legislation will help level the playing field for landowners. This bill requires condemnors to pay the costs and fees incurred by landowners in eminent domain proceedings if the amount of damages awarded to the landowner is at least 20 percent greater than the initial amount the entity offered to pay. This legislation enjoyed broad support

from the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Farm Bureau, and Texas Wildlife Association, among others.

"Landowners across Texas are often forced to accept low offers for their property in condemnation cases because they can't afford to fight to get fair compensation. If landowners are forced to go through the condemnation process under

current law, they are never really made whole because of the legal fees and appraisal costs they must pay," said Kolkhorst. "Senate Bill 474 protects landowners whose property is taken for public use by strengthening their ability to fight for fair compensation."

Texas Senate District 18 includes all or parts of 21 counties including Waller, Aransas, Austin, Burleson, Calhoun,

Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, Victoria, Washington, and Wharton. Senator Kolkhorst and her husband Jim have been married for 27 years and have two children, Lois Kate and Jake. Senator Kolkhorst had previously served House District 13 in the Texas House of Representatives for 14 years.

Cattle Raisers Praise Passage of Senate Bill 474

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association recently praised passage of Senate Bill 474, which helps landowners receive a fair offer in eminent domain proceedings. Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, (R-Brenham) authored the legislation and it was passed in the Texas State Senate last week with a 25-6 vote.

"I am very pleased this important legislation passed the Senate," said TSCRA President Pete Bonds. "Many times, too often landowners are forced to accept lowball offers in condemnation cases because they can't afford litigation that could help them receive fair compensation for their property. Fortunately, this bill helps level the playing

field for landowners by requiring condemnors to pay the landowner's litigation fees if the initial offer is too low.

SB 474 requires condemnors to pay the attorney and professional fees incurred by landowners if the amount of damages awarded by the special commissioners is at least 20 percent greater than the amount the con-

demnor offered to pay before the proceedings began or if the commissioner's award is appealed and a court awards damages in an amount that is at least 20 percent greater than the amount the condemnor offered to pay before the proceedings began.

"TSCRA appreciates Sen. Kolkhorst for her hard work on this legislation and for always

going to bat for Texas landowners. We encourage legislators in the House to pass this bill so it can be sent to the Governor's desk for his signature," Bonds concluded.

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TYLER TWARDOWSKI BENEFIT

Tyler Twardowski, a senior at Waller High, was in a terrible boating accident on June 21st, 2014. Due to the severity of the accident, Tyler has had to undergo many surgeries and countless hours of physical therapy. This horrific tragedy has left Tyler and his family with physical, emotional and financial stress. Our community is coming together to host a benefit to raise funds to help the Twardowski family with current medical expenses and a lifetime of medical expense yet to come.

April 18th, 2015 @ 6:00pm

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Impaired Driver Campaign Sets Sights on Hispanic Males

Impaired driving continues to be a significant problem in Texas and responding to this challenge requires an effective plan to communicate with all Texans. In 2014, young Hispanic males comprised 49 percent of all statewide male drivers, ages 17-34, involved in impaired driving crashes. These crashes led to 605 serious injuries and 275 deaths, leaving families facing a lifetime of loss. In an effort to reduce crashes and save lives, the Texas Department of Transportation today is launching a bilingual, DUI awareness campaign called "Drink. Drive. Go to Jail. De Veras."

"Unfortunately, drinking and driving remains a serious problem in Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director LtGen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). "Until that changes, we must be diligent in our efforts to save lives, reduce crashes and spare families the heartache of losing loved ones to irresponsible decision making. The loss and suffering that comes with drinking and driving is entirely preventable. Don't do it. Period."

The "Drink. Drive. Go to Jail. De Veras." campaign runs through May 23 to overlap with Easter, Fiesta and Cinco de Mayo. The Spanish phrase "De Veras," meaning "For Real," is a common expression used by Spanish speakers when responding to expressions of disbelief. Recent census numbers show that 38 percent of the Texas population is Hispanic. This number is expected to grow significantly in the coming decades along with the state's overall population.

Recognizing the importance of this campaign, the Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials and the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce are joining TxDOT as partners.

"As an organization that

cares deeply about the welfare of the Hispanic community, we support this effort and its focus to save the lives of our young Hispanic drivers," said San Marcos Mayor Daniel Guerrero, President of the Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials. "Our young drivers need to be educated on the fact that one wrong decision can

have dire ramifications on their future. This campaign, with its cultural influence, will resonate strongly in the Hispanic community."

Pauline Anton, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce said, "It is critical that we work together to make everyone aware

of the dangers involved when they drink and drive — hefty fines, jail time or worse, the loss of a life. We are proud to support this campaign for a second year in the continued hope of seeing more lives saved in our community."

For more information, contact TxDOT Media Relations at 512-463-8700.



Schultz Junior High School held their cheer tryouts on Wednesday, April 8. The students practiced for two days to learn cheers and dance moves before the tryouts. Pictured are cheerleaders practicing their herkie jumps before tryout time. The students received a letter by the end of the day announcing their acceptance into the school or competition squads. WISD Public Information.

SOAH Continued from page 1A

Texas Council of Governments, or COGS, which have not funded the plans.

Head stated that regional government entities, such as the Houston-Galveston Area Council, already have a waste management plan in place.

Head added that the only requirement of county governments was to ensure that all citizens have access to solid waste services, and went on to recommend that the

county not pursue a county waste management plan due to its long, arduous, and costly process.

When asked about revamping the 2011 landfill ordinance, Head stated that two counties --Caldwell and Guadalupe County -- are currently in the process of opposing Green Group Holdings (parent Co. of Pintail) in their acquisition of municipal solid waste landfill permits with the help of their local ordinances.

Ordinances can be successful Head acknowledged. As an example of a successful ordinance, Head mentioned Caldwell County's ordinance which prohibits a landfill over a recharge zone. Green Holdings Group recently lost its bid to strike down Caldwell County's ordinance in a hearing.

Commissioners also approved a Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month in Waller County.



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Hempstead OAP Performs "Children of a Lesser God" for Public



Hempstead High School One Act Play Company will perform their award winning play "Children of a Lesser God" for the public on Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. HISD Public Information.

By LAURIE BETTIS
HISD Public Information

The Hempstead High School One Act Play Company has set Thursday, April 16, as the date for their public performance of "Children of a Lesser God." The curtains will open at

6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium for the public performance and admission will be \$1 for students and \$2 for adults.

"Children of a Lesser God" by Mark Medoff is a love story about a speech teacher who falls for a beautiful, yet distant deaf

girl in a small New England school for the deaf, and the obstacles that they face due to their differences.

Giovanni Sandoval plays James Leeds, a speech teacher at a school for the deaf. He falls for Sarah played by Yaretsy Salazar,

a pupil who decided to stay on at the school rather than venture into the big bad world. She shuns him at first, refusing to read his lips and only using signs.

Remaining cast members include Kobie Culler as Orin Dennis, Kevin Arratia as Mr.

Franklin, and Jasmine Herrera as Edna Klein. Crew members are Christian Arteaga as stage manager, John Bernal as light board operator and Jasmine Rosales as sound board operator.

Under the direction of Anna Riley, the Hempstead OAP company was the Alternate Advancing Play at the district competition held on Saturday, March 28 in Sealy. Several students re-

ceived individual awards as well. Giovanni Sandoval received the All Star Cast award for his performance as James Leeds. Yaretsy Salazar was awarded the Honorable Mention All Star Cast award for her performance as Sara Norman Leeds. John Bernal received the Best Overall Male Tech award and Christian Arteaga received the Best Tech award.

Waller County Law Enforcement Officers Offered Thanks

Concerned Citizens for a Better Prairie View are sponsoring a "Thank You Lunch" for all Waller County Law Enforcement Officers, Thursday, April 16, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Wingaritas Restaurant, located at the entrance to Prairie View University (intersection of University and Owens Road).

The lunch is in appreciation for the additional law enforce-

ment personnel in the county and the collaboration that has, and is, occurring throughout the Waller County since the Feb-

ruary Waller County Law Enforcement Forum that was held in the city of Prairie View.

Law enforcement officers

are invited to join the Concerned Citizens for a Better Prairie View on April 16.

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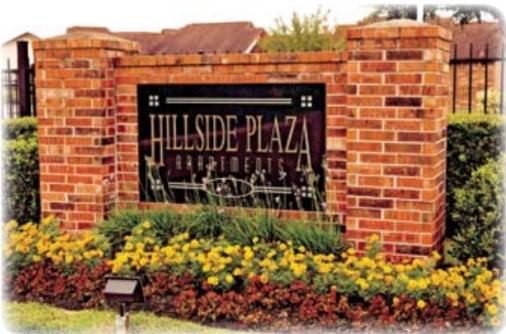
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Champions Challenge Students Take on Competition

WISD Public Information

Each of the Waller ISD elementary schools sent two fourth-grade students to compete in The First Tee National School Program Champions Challenge Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 28. The Champions Challenge is a golf skills event in which several fourth-grade students from local area school districts compete.

The event is held at the Redstone Golf Club in Humble and is hosted by the Houston Golf Association. The Champions Challenge is held on the Saturday prior to the Shell Houston Open. Waller ISD elementary schools partnered with The First Tee of Greater Houston to provide students structured golf curriculum taught during the physical education classes. Students earned their spot in the Champions Challenge tournament based on their performance in their physical education classes.

The following students represented Waller ISD at the event: Madison Higgins and Brock Thorndell from E. Turlington Elementary School; Claire Vines and Misael Maldonado from I.T. Holleman Elementary School; Danna Martinez and Jacob Dains from Roberts Road Elementary School; Joshua Cadieux and Katherine Stockert from Fields Store Elementary School; and Daniel Ordner and Jacqueline Alvarado from H.T. Jones Elementary School.

Physical education coaches



The fourth-grade students of Waller ISD's elementary schools competed in The First Tee National School Program Champions Challenge Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 28. The event provided the opportunity for the students to apply the golf skills they learned in their physical education classes on a real golf course. Pictured (top row, l-r) is Physical Education Teachers E. Turlington Elementary Lindsey Gray, Fields Store Elementary Sharron Carpenter, Aides E. Turlington Elementary Kristi Noble, and Roberts Road Elementary Julie Pazdernick, and (bottom row, l-r) I.T. Holleman Elementary students Claire Vines and Misael Maldonado, Fields Store Elementary students Joshua Cadieux and Katherine Stockert, and E. Turlington Elementary students Madison Higgins and Brock Thorndell. WISD Public Information.

that accompanied the students were E. Turlington Elementary School Kristin Noble, I.T. Holleman Elementary School Kelly LeBlanc, Roberts Road Elementary School Charlie Owens, Fields Store Elementary School

Sharron Carpenter, and H.T. Jones Elementary School Ronald Hill.

The fun event provided students the opportunity to apply their golf and etiquette skills on a real golf course and attend a

PGA Tour event. The tournament participants received a shirt, hat, bag tag, two tickets to the tournament, and lunch. A special thanks to all the students and coaches for representing Waller ISD at the event.

WISD Receives Grant for Health Services Department

WISD Public Information

The Waller ISD Health Services Department will be the recipient of a \$5,200 grant from the Tomball Health Coalition. The grant was awarded to supplement funds for the purchase of new medical equipment and supplies for the Waller ISD campus clinics.

More than 6,200 Waller ISD students from all eight schools will benefit from the grant money awarded. The grant will assist the district in purchasing items for the school clinics such as Tympanic Thermometers, Infection Prevention Kits, Pulse Ox Machines, Ear Check Middle Ear Monitors, Recovery Cots, and much more.

"The Tomball Health Coalition is so excited to be able to

provide the funds that will support the health and wellness of the students in the Waller Independent School District. It is our mission to provide the district with all the necessary tools that nurses need to keep the children healthy," said David McClinton, Vice President of the Tomball Health Coalition.

The Tomball Health Coalition is a charitable organization formed in January 2013 to promote the health and wellness in Magnolia, Tomball, Waller and surrounding areas. Marilyn Kinyo, Chief Administrative Officer of the Tomball Health Coalition, oversees the foundation that awarded the grant.

Kinyo worked with Tomball Health Coalition Board Member, Patsy Marburger, and encour-



The Tomball Health Coalition generously awarded a \$5,200 grant to the Waller ISD Health Services Department to supplement funds the purchase of new medical equipment for the Waller ISD campus clinics. Pictured (l-r) are Waller ISD Lead Nurse Karen Reid RN, Tomball Health Coalition Board Member Patsy Marburger, and Waller ISD Superintendent Danny Twardowski holding the check from the Tomball Health Coalition. WISD Public Information.

aged Waller ISD to apply for the grant. Marburger saw potential in the Waller ISD community where the school clinics could benefit from the funds. Marburg-

er worked with the Waller ISD Lead Nurse, Karen Reid RN, and Shelly Shultz LVN, to secure the grant monies for the Waller ISD clinics.

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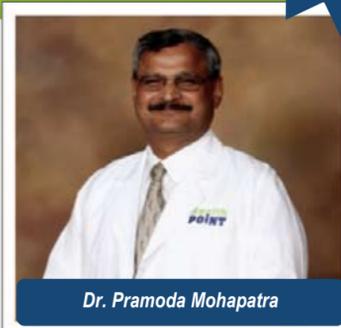
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Former Head Football Coach and AD Returns to WISD

WISD Public Information

The Waller ISD School Board of Trustees voted to rehire Coach Jim Phillips as Waller ISD's Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at the Waller ISD School Board March Meeting. Phillips returned to Waller ISD with a successful coaching career in high school football, including nearly 20 years at Waller High School.

Phillips also served as Head Football Coach at Greenville High School, and most recently at Pasadena Dobie High School. At Pasadena Dobie High School, Phillips took his team to playoffs for four consecutive years from 2011-2014. In 2009, at Greenville High School, Phillips went 6-4 for the school's first winning season in 10 years.

During his tenure at Waller High School, Phillips achieved several honors, including leading the football team to UIL Regionals, District, Bi-District and Area Championships, and Playoffs. At the board meeting, School Board President Bryan Lowe offered a heartfelt "Welcome home!" to Coach Phillips.

Phillips will be replacing current Waller ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach, Brad Wright. Wright announced his retirement and will finish out his employment contract for the current school year. Superintendent Danny Twardowski said, "I wish Coach Wright the best. He has added so much value to our athletic programs and has taught our students lifelong values that they will carry with them throughout their lifetime. I am also very happy to have Coach Phillips. He knows our community well and has a passion for the program. I am looking forward to working with him again."



Jim Phillips returns to Waller ISD as Athletic Director and Head Football Coach. WISD Public Information.



Moms were Movin' and Groovin' at Holleman at the First Annual Movin' with Moms Day. Moms and students participated together before school combining fun and fitness in one. WISD Public Information.

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Hempstead Middle School Beta Qualifies for Nationals

By LAURIE BETTIS

HISD Public Information

The Hempstead Middle School Junior Beta Club earned three invitations to

the National Junior Beta Convention to be held in June in Nashville, Tennessee. Three Hempstead Junior Beta members placed in the top three in

their national eligible competitions at the 2015 Texas Junior Beta Convention, which was held in February in Grapevine, Texas.

Jesus Otero placed first in Pastels or Charcoals while Maria Garcia placed second in Watercolors and Jonabeth Evans placed third in Sculpture at the state convention to earn the invitations for their local chapter. All three beta members are eligible to compete with their entries in the national competition this summer. State Sponsor and HMS Junior Beta Sponsor Robert Thomas also received an award at the state convention for serving two years as a Texas Junior Beta Sponsor.



Hempstead Middle School has earned three invitations to the National Junior Beta Convention. Jesus Otero (center) placed first in Pastels or Charcoals, Maria Garcia (left) placed second in Watercolors and Jonabeth Evans (right) placed third in Sculpture at the Texas Junior Beta Convention. HISD Public Information.

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EDITORIAL Continued from page 2A

tunity should be available in advance if we truly want complete transparency.) While we generally choose not to publish plenty of public records such as divorces, foreclosures, tax liens, etc., we are responsible as a free press to report on the actions of public officials. As we all saw in the case of Commissioners Court starting in 2011, some things must be looked into and reported on. (Area citizens themselves revealed the controversy of the

Commissioners Court back in 2011.)

So far, no current local media has engaged in a full news program, but The Waller Times is getting there. We are watching and waiting. We are asking questions. We are getting ignored some of the time, but we are patient and willing to work with our officials who are continuing to promise us the information we are requesting. The question is: When is enough, enough? In a small town, pointing fingers and naming names if sometimes uncomfortable, but all of us must remember that elec-

tions are right around the corner and not being forthcoming with public information is not good business.

With the advent of social media, and the many new ways to get instant access to what's going on in the world, we see a new way of thinking emerging from the crowd. The new generations are enjoying this new "information" stream and they feel like they have access to what's going on with anyone, anytime. The problem is - as Prazak-Gourley points out this week -- they are getting only what the originator wants them to know which is not necessarily the truth - or the whole story. Currently, most taxpayer-supported entities are allowing social media to control the dialogue. It's unfortunate, but we can turn the tide.

Law enforcement agencies across the world are creating facebook pages and posting items they think the world wants to see. Does that make them accountable? Do you think they are going to post any information that will shed them in a bad light? No. They will only post something that makes them look good, "work-

ing for you, the taxpayers!" Only a free press, and sometimes the help of an outraged citizenry, can put a dent in making sure our elected leaders are held accountable for spending our money and governing our affairs. Unfortunately for them, when they do get caught up in a scandal, social media is up and running again, even before they have had a chance to defend themselves.

With all of this said, We the People need to take control of our community and keep our elected and unelected officials on their toes.

I agree with Carrie Prazak-Gourley. The new Waller County Commissioners Court is a breath of fresh air. Kudos to them for their quick turnaround in Waller County and to the citizens that held them and their former colleagues accountable. The court can be divided in its opinions; that is part of the American democracy. What it can't be is closed off to the people and the press.

Let's hope the rest of the stewards of the public trust can be equally transparent. We are watching....and waiting. Stay tuned.

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ARNOLD Continued from page 2A

hoped to see wasn't there. A rumor was making the rounds that Barbara Holt was in town and would attend, but alas, she didn't make it. Maybe next year.

Glenn Hegar, hometown boy made good (former state representative, former state senator, current comptroller of public accounts) was guest speaker. He spoke of growing up in Waller, attending and graduating from Waller schools, and how he felt those years led him to where he is now. Not only was he very sincere, but very gracious as the crowd snaked by him, everyone pausing to pose for a photo.

That man will be our next

governor – at least that's my prediction. In fact, our table took a straw vote, and he won. He's only 41, so he has time.

Did I mention the food? Catered by Harrison BBQ, it was excellent as always. Is there anything better than brisket, sausage, light bread, dill pickles, and peach cobbler? Oh, sure, there was perfectly grilled chicken, green beans and mashed potatoes (REAL potatoes, not instant), too, but that brisket ... yum!

Birthdays wishes to Naomi Kleb, Kayla Mundy, Eddie Raye Andrews, Alizabeth "Ali" Ray Garrett, Bill Thompson, Yvonne Fisher, Ken Brown, Brandon

Holmes, Landon Wood, Bonnie Rushing, Judson Wise Paben, Scotty Scott IV, Billy Keaton, Pam Edmonds, Kyle Friedel, Peggy Holz, Kevin Glueck, Jackie Bundrant, Gregg Hoffart, Katelyn Bellard, Tiffany Bellard, Jaylin Smith, Dustin Hoffman, Katie Marie Schmidt, Nathan Hurt, Colton Thompson, Kyle Stawarczik, Barbara Buzek, Jordan Powers, and Rhonda Flukinger.

I missed a couple of birthdays recently – not that I haven't done that before! – but a REALLY belated happy birthday to my classmate, Edwin Kleb. His birthday was on Texas Independence Day, which is – WAS – on

March 2 for you Yankee transplants (and we welcome y'all for having the good sense to move here, bless your hearts!).

The other just-barely-missed birthday belongs to Larry Kelley, who celebrated his special day on April 8. Larry and his family moved from our community in 1962 – to California, of all places – but he never forgot Waller. He and his wife, Beth, were at the reunion Saturday night, and we all had a good time catching up, and plan to do more of it.

The Kelley family, which also included Grover, Nano, and Mary, lived on Hegar Road, very near Tennwood Country Club,

now Houston Oaks. Larry did come back to Texas to attend college, and now owns his own business in Houston.

See? This is the stuff that happens at a school reunion, so plan on attending next year. The kids from 1966 are probably already making plans, so re-connect with your classmates and get "on the list."

Marking their wedding anniversary next week will be Tim and Kate Connor, Slade and Amber Newton Helton, John and Maryann McDaniel, Wade and Melanie Hill, Shannon and Tracy Sandoval, Russell and Sheila Mundy, and Jeffrey and

Berndadette Marsh.

My heart goes out to my dear sister-in-law, Kitty McCaig, on the loss of her mother over the weekend. Sue Keeling was a dynamic woman – one of those you could describe as a "force of nature." Although she's been in declining health for many years, she handled it with far more grace than I would. You may send notes of condolence to Kitty and her family at P. O. Box 760, Waller 77484.

Until next week ...

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

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Footprints in the Sand Learning Center (Christian owned and operated) Now hiring both full and part-time dependable, energetic, and loving individuals. Previous childcare experience is preferred. Applicants must be certified in First Aid and CPR within 90 days of hire date. We can assist if needed. Benefits include, paid holidays after the 90 day probation period. Full time employees will receive one week of paid vacation after one year of service. Starting pay depends on previous experience. Please call (979) 826-3487 or send resume to communications@footprintsinthesandlc.com.

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We would like a reliable applicant that is ASE certified. Diesel experience is a plus. You should have your own tools and transportation. Rotating Saturdays, Salary, no commission.

Apply in person at 40793 FM 1488 Rd, Hempstead, TX 77445. Call 979-921-0906.

PART-TIME SECRETARY

Texas Farm Bureau Insurance located in Waller, TX is currently accepting applications for a Part-Time Secretary. Looking for a dependable, energetic, and service oriented person to help with day-to-day office activities. No experience necessary, but Customer Service and Telephone skills a plus.

For immediate considerations, please apply with resume in person at 3019 Waller Street, Waller, Texas or email resume or request for application to dlight@txfb-ins.com.

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BID NOTICE

Macedonia Cemetery Association of Hockley, TX is accepting bids for an annual lawn maintenance contract. Bids are due by May 11, 2015. For bid information, contact Joni Buck at 281-251-7281 or email macedonia_cemetery@hotmail.com.

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Large Brick Country Home on 3 acres - 3/2/2 Central air & heat. Swimming pool, hot tub & large pool house with kitchen, loft and bath. \$2,800/mo + deposit. 2 year lease. References. 20 minutes from FM 1960 off 290. Outdoor Pets Only.
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LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL)

To the registered voters of the City of Waller, Texas: *(a los votantes registrados del Ciudad de Waller, Texas):*

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2015, for voting in a general election to elect Three (3) Councilmembers: *(Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 9 de Mayo de 2015 para votar en la Elección General para elegir a tres concejales.)*

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES (DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Waller ISD School Administrative Building, 2214 Waller St., Waller, Texas 77484 *(Edificio administrativo de la escuela ISD, Waller, 2214 Waller St, Waller, TX 77484)*

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Waller ISD School Administrative Building, 2214 Waller St. Waller, Texas 77484 *(La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en Edificio administrativo de la escuela ISD, Waller, 2214 Waller St, Waller, TX 77484)*

Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 27, 2015 and ending on May 5, 2015. *(entre las 8:00 a.m. de la mañana y las 4:00 p.m. de la tarde empezando el 27 Abril, 2015 y terminando el 05 de Mayo de 2015)*

Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning on May 4, 2014 and ending on May 5, 2014. *(entre las 7:00 a.m. de la mañana y las 7:00 p.m. de la tarde empezando el 05 de Mayo de 2014 y terminando el 06 de Mayo de 2014)*

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: *(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán enviarse a:)*

Dan Teed
(Name of Early Voting Clerk) *(Nombre del Secretario(a) de la Votación Adelantada)*

836 Austin Street, Suite 103
(Address) *(Dirección)*

Hempstead, Texas 77445
(City) *(Ciudad)* (Zip Code) *(Zona Postal)*

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 6, 2015. *(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 06 de mayo 2015)*

Issued this the 13th day of April, 2015.
(Emitida este día 13th de Abril, 2015.)

/s/ Danny Marburger
Signature of Mayor *(Firma del Alcalde)*

Afterschool Centers on Education ACE Program Evaluation

The Afterschool Centers on Education ACE Program funded by the 21st Century Grant – Cycle 7 Project is being evaluated by Daniel K. Lopez. Daniel Lopez's report will be completed in June, 2015. The purpose of the report is to confirm that the ACE Program at Waller Independent School District meets all of the requirements and standards outlined by the Texas Education Agency and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Cycle 7 Grant Project. A 21st Century Grant – Cycle 7 Project Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. and is open to the public. The meeting will be held at the Waller I.S.D. Tax Office located at 1918 Key Street, Waller, Texas 77484. Questions? Please contact ACE Program Director Michael Twigg at 936-931-4089 or mtwigg@wallerisd.net for additional information.

ABANDONED BOAT. Requesting to locate the owner of Triton TR21 bass boat. Serial number G04517695. Contact Jay Emmons at 281-986-9066. 4tc5/06

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NOTICE TO VENDORS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. Mike Marcus, Waller Independent School District will be received at 1918 Key Street, Waller, Texas 77484 for the following categories:

- Instructional Supplies & Equipment (Catalog) Due: May 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
- Library Books and Publications (Catalog) Due: May 14, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
- Maintenance – Plumbing, Electrical, & HVAC Supplies & Equipment (Catalog) Due: May 15, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

The following proposals will be available 4/8 & 4/17 respectively:

- Janitorial Supplies & Equipment (Line Item) Due: June 2, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
- School Bus & Automotive Parts (Line Item & Catalog) Due: June 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Proposals will be opened at time stated at the Waller ISD Business Office.

Waller Independent School District reserves the right to reject any/or all proposals and to accept any proposals deemed most advantageous to the district and to waive any informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.

Proposal forms may be obtained from our website at www.wallerisd.net under Business Office tab. Questions may be directed to Karen Hackler at khackler@wallerisd.net.

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4 city blocks - total of 5.72 acres. Currently used for grazing cattle. City utilities available in area.....**SOLD...\$65,000**

1.96 wooded acres in Montgomery County with electricity available. Location provides quick access to FM 2978 or FM 1488. Restricted against mobile homes. Future development with proposed Woodland Parkway access in near future.....**REDUCED...\$59,900**

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3/2 home in Grimes County with a 2 car attached garage with workshop and drive thru door. Home is a 2 story with 2 bedrooms up and the master down stairs. Navasota ISD with quick access to FM 1774 / Hwy 105.....**ASKING...\$125,900**

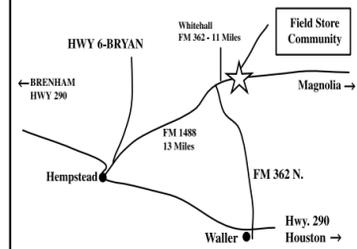


3/2 home built with low maintenance features such as hardi plank siding and a metal roof. A concrete driveway leads thru the 2-car garage which has a drive thru door on back and a workshop area. Home features 2-bedrooms upstairs and a master bedroom down stairs with a master bath and large walk-in closet. Living room area has a skylight and a tile floor. Kitchen has large walk-in pantry, breakfast bar, and gas range. Utility room is located inside the home with washer and electric dryer connections. Navasota ISD.....**ASKING...\$125,900**



1.964 wooded acres to build your new home. Property has some restrictions such as single family homes with a minimum of 1500 sq. feet, no commercial use, and horses are allowed. Currently property has road frontage on Highland Blvd. with possible frontage on the proposed Woodlands Parkway extension. Great location with quick access to FM 1488 or FM 2978. Shopping and schools close by. Motivated seller has Reduced Price to.....**\$59,900**

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GOURLEY Continued from page 2A

while others do not. When it comes to the release of police information, it's police departments themselves who determine what incidents are released to the press. And that can be a problem in regards to transparency.

For decades, open records have helped the public obtain government records as a means to watch over taxpayer funded agencies.

According to the Texas Press Association, a 1976 challenge by the Houston Chronicle set the standard for what should be clearly public: "Basic information that ordinarily appears on the first page of an offense report."

Ultimately for the citizen,

there is no way to know who may be involved or what has happened unless we receive all the information that the law allows, and in a timely manner. Whether it is a burglary, a violent crime, or a simple trespassing incident, citizens should be informed of what's happening in the community when it comes to crime. Such information could help citizens remain safer and be on guard for certain crimes in their neighborhood.

As previously stated, some cities are more transparent than others. Abilene, for instance, releases incident reports daily, and has them available at the department's front desk. Anyone can sift through

the reports.

Other police departments post daily incident reports online, listing a case number and other information for every call.

To help aid transparency, the Texas legislature has put forth three bills which would require officers to wear a body camera as a further aid to law enforcement transparency. In addition, another bill, HB 474, if passed, would make camera recordings public information subject to release.

Governor Greg Abbott is in favor of body cameras for police officers and stated, "Equipping officers with body cameras is a step in the right direction."

Other bills have been filed to require law enforcement to record suspects while interrogated during custody.

Currently, private colleges and universities are not subject to the Texas Public Information Act, but SB 308, if passed, would require these entities to follow all TPIA guidelines.

Great advancements have been made in transparency, but the fight is not over. Suspects or arrestees are innocent until proven guilty and police body cameras would provide protection for both the officers and the suspects.

To further transparency, incident reports, and all information considered to be in the public domain, should be vol-

untarily released to local media on a regular basis.

So let's continue to bring in the sunshine to all government entities in Waller County, including law enforcement. The people have a right to know what crimes are being committed in their neighborhood in a timely fashion.

Police officers have a tough job and deserve our respect and support. They are the firewall between the community and the criminal, and undoubtedly keep us safe. Their work in keeping our communities' crime rates low is greatly appreciated.

But, as a government agency of "We the People", they must keep the public in-

formed about their activities because unfortunately, sometimes actions left unseen become acts of power rather than acts of justice.

Citizens concerned about transparency should contact their local law enforcement agency or the Texas Open Government Hotline at 877-678-6837 for their questions or concerns.

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

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 - 18 ACRES:** Fenced, lightly restricted, Ag exempt. Easy access to Hwy. 6.....\$10,111/ac.
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 - 36 ACRES:** in north Waller County. Pond, large trees & choice homesites. Unrestricted.....\$12,000/ac.
 - 39 ACRES:** NW Waller County. Secluded at dead-end of road. Fenced, well, 1,500 sq. ft. metal building, 12'X12' well house, large pond & pad for homesite. Trees & pasture.....\$10,750/ac.
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 - 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\$10,200/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

- HWY 6 CORNER:** Older 2-1 wood frame home on 0.39 acre at Hwy 6 & FM 1736. Needs work.....PENDING\$60,000
- 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
- BRUSHY CREEK:** 3-2 manufactured home on 0.459 acre lot with large shade trees. Easy access to Tomball, Magnolia & Waller.....PENDING\$85,000
- HEMPSTEAD:** 3-3 all brick home on 2.5 lots. Wood, floors, formals, plantation shutters, sunroom, gameroom, crown molding & fireplace. Needs some TLC.....\$162,500
- MALLARD CROSSING:** 2 story 3-2-2 on corner lot of a cul-de-sac street. Spacious open floor plan, privacy fenced back yard w/covered patio, kennel w/shelter & tastefully landscaped. Located in Hockley with easy access to Hwy 290 & the Grand Pkwy.....\$179,000
- PINE GROVE:** One story 3-2-2 brick on 1 acre in nice country subdivision with restrictions. Large rooms & well landscaped. Community water. Near Waller.....\$215,000
- HORSE PROPERTY:** 5 acres with 3-2 manufactured home. Open plan w/fireplace & deck. 3-stall barn w/tack room, pasture, paddocks, lighted arena, round pen & pond. Fenced & x-fenced. Off of FM 2920 in Waller.....PENDING\$223,000
- CHARMING:** Remodeled 2-3 (possibly 3-3) farm house on 5 acres in Pine Ridge. Spacious with large kitchen, beamed ceilings, wood floors & nice deck for outdoor living. Large shade trees. So much character!.....PENDING\$225,000
- NEAR WALLER:** Charming older 3-2-2 home on 5 acres. Eat-in kitchen, formals, fireplace, extra room & screened-in porch. Partially fenced, storage bldg & scattered trees.....\$234,000
- RIVERWOOD:** Lovely 3-2-3 home on 1.87 acre in country neighborhood. High ceiling & stained concrete floors. Beautiful mature oaks. Light restrictions.....PENDING\$239,000
- WALLER:** Recently remodeled 3-2-2 home on 2.3 fenced acres. Property includes workshop, well house & old barn. Easy access to I-10 & Hwy 290.....PENDING\$279,000
- PARK-LIKE:** Adorable 3-2 home w/4-carport on fenced 4.38 acres. Wonderful wrap-around porch, island kitchen, gameroom & back patio. Workshop, barn, covered stalls, lighted riding area & scattered beautiful live oaks. On FM 362 w/easy access to Hwy 290 & Grand Pkwy\$329,000
- CUSTOM HOME:** 5.2 acres w/3-2.5-2 home, 1 bedroom guest suite & unfinished room over garage. Lots of windows, fireplace, porches, brick grill & concrete parking. Fenced & x-fenced with small barn. Near Hockley w/easy access to Hwy 290 & Grand Pkwy.....PENDING\$395,000
- 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.....\$575,000



PARK-LIKE: Adorable 3-2 home w/4-carport on fenced 4.38 acres. Wonderful wrap-around porch, island kitchen, gameroom & back patio. Workshop, barn, covered stalls, lighted riding area & scattered beautiful live oaks. On FM 362 w/easy access to Hwy 290 & Grand Pkwy.....\$329,000

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

- 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.....PENDING.....\$510,000
- WALLER:** Gated 13 acre ranch with 3-2.5 custom 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. 36X60 Morton building/barn, RV parking, pond, pasture & fenced.....PENDING.....\$674,900
- 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

- FOR LEASE:** Historical building in downtown Hempstead with 1,500 sq. ft. High visibility. Needs some TLC.....\$750/mo.
- FOR LEASE:** 1,820 sq. ft. office/retail space on the corner of Smith & Main Street. High visibility in downtown Waller...\$1,200/mo.
- 0.46 ACRE:** Cleared lot in Brookshire with high visibility from 90. Zone commercial or residential. Property is in 100 year flood plain.....\$60,000
- 0.92 ACRE:** City of Brookshire. Commercial or residential. City utilities.....PENDING.....\$62,000
- 1.5 ACRES:** Just 1 block north of I-10 in Brookshire. Zoned commercial.....\$1.95/sq. ft.
- 3.96 ACRES:** FM 362 near Hwy 290. Corner location. City utilities.....PENDING.....\$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.
- 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.
- HISTORIC BUILDING:** on 12th Street in Hempstead. Approx 1,500 sq. ft. Great location with high visibility.....\$105,000
- WALLER NURSERY:** 12 unrestricted acres with well, irrigation & commercial greenhouses. Heated plant beds for year round growing. Everything needed to operate a business.....\$275,000
- HEMPSTEAD:** Investment opportunity - 8 houses on 8 lots. Must be sold together. Allbut one is currently leased...\$364,430
- 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

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4440 3-2-2 brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre.....\$230,000



4447 3-2 home in Waller on corner lot with nice shade trees, close to schools and churches, hardwood flooring, many updates.....\$115,000



3743 4-2.1 two story home on hill, stone exterior, hardwood flooring, 21 acres fenced and cross fenced.....\$579,500



4428 3-2-2 brick home, recent roof, formals, large kitchen on 2 lots.....PENDING.....\$107,500



4402 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.....PENDING.....\$379,900



4441 3-2.1/2 two story home on two and a half acres with mature trees, large island kitchen, gated entrance\$499,000

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
- 4428 3-2-2 brick home, recent roof, formals, large kitchen on 2 lots.....PENDING\$107,500
- 4440 3-2-2 brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre.....\$230,000
- 4441 3-2.1/2 two story home on two and a half acres with mature trees, large island kitchen, gated entrance\$499,000
- 4447 3-2 home in Waller on corner lot with nice shade trees, close to schools and churches, hardwood flooring, many updates.....\$115,000

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- 4374 10 acres in subdivision, deed restrictions, Waller ISD\$470,000
- 4386 160 acres with lots of frontage, water well, FM frontage, could be divided\$2,486,820
- 4402 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.....PENDING\$379,900
- 4403 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.....PENDING\$586,500
- 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
- 4422 Corner lot in Hempstead, additional lots available.....\$6,000
- 4423 Two lots in Hempstead, city utilities available\$12,000
- 4431 5 acres, frontage on 2 roads, close to town, some restrictions.....\$79,500
- 4432 Unrestricted lot, commercial or residential, community water.....\$165,000
- 4433 4-3-2 Brick home with 2 fireplaces, on 4 acres with pond\$265,000
- 4435 4-3-2 100 acres, large scattered oaks, ag exempt, community water available\$1,200,920
- 4437 3-2-1 Home, open floorpan, island kitchen on 4 acres, beautiful scattered trees\$225,000
- 4448 40 acres, Hwy 290 visible frontage, currently in ag use\$1,006,000

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- 3743 4-2.1 two story home on hill, stone exterior, hardwood flooring, 21 acres fenced and cross fenced.....\$579,500
- 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 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
- 4360 Corner lot in city with utilities\$4,500

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