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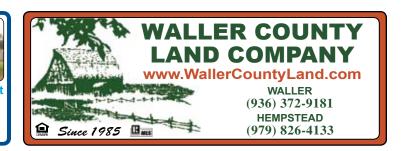
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# Scripture of the Week

#### **ROMANS 8:18**

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 12 Pages, 2 Sections

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**Inserts** this week: Arlan's Market



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# Waller County Clerk Will Issue Same Sex Marriage Licenses

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY **The Waller Times** 

On Friday, June 26, in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court of the United states held that the recognition and provision of same-sex marriage is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott stated the following in regards to the decision, "Five justices on the Supreme Court have imposed on the entire nation their personal views in an issue that the Constitution reserves to the state and to the people. Despite the Supreme Court's rulings, Texans' fundamental right to religious liberty will be protected. No Texan is required by the Supreme Court's decision to act contrary to his or her religious beliefs regarding marriage."

Lois Kolkhorst, Texas State Senator, District 18, stated, "The Texas Legislature passed the Defense of Marriage Act and later a Constitutional Amendment was passed supporting traditional marriage by a 76% majority of Texans. Today's ruling, Obergefell v. Hodges, deprives the states of their historic right to determine what marriage should be. This decision properly rests with the people, acting through their elected representatives."

cil Bell, Jr., added, "Our Founding fathers never intended the U.S. Supreme Court to be a maker of laws. Regardless of where your ideology falls, what must not be debatable is the sovereign power of the separate states and of the citizens to define and regulate those matters not specifically enumerated to the federal government."

In Waller County, according to the Waller County Clerk, Debbie Hollan, her office is issuing marriage licenses to all couples, including same-sex couples.

Hollan stated, "As an elected official, I have taken an oath to execute the duties of the office, and will 'preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Texas'."

In regards to religious objection, Hollan added, "If an employee will not issue the license pursuant to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article 1 of the Texas Constitution, as well as the Texas Religious Freedom Act, another employee will issue the license."

By law, Texas judges and justices of the peace are among those authorized to conduct marriage ceremonies, but have no mandatory duty to conduct any wedding ceremony, and also may reject to perform a same-sex ceremonies under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

As of July 2, one same-sex marriage Our Texas State Representative Ce- license has been issued in Waller County.



during the Waller Freedom Festival during the recent July 4th Freedom Festival in Waller. The photo credit is unidentified and was submitted to The Waller Times with the following caption: From a USMC Marine. Thank you Waller!

# Texas Governor Presents Medal of Valor Award

Editor's Note: The Waller Times found this story significant on the heels of the July 4th holiday. The Governor's remarks to the Medal of Valor recipient follow the article.

Governor Greg Abbott recently presented the Lone Star Medal of Valor Award to Werner W. "Ronnie" Reininger, CPL., USMC (retired) in San Antonio, Texas. The Lone Star Medal of Valor is an esteemed military service decoration awarded to an active member or veteran of the United States Armed Services who

has demonstrated outstanding bravery and heroism while serving.

"It is my distinct honor on behalf of the people of Texas to present the Lone Star Medal of Valor to Sergeant Ronnie Reininger," Governor Abbott said. "Sgt. Reininger displayed selfless service, leadership and dedication to duty above and beyond. His repeated acts of valor inspired others to fight on and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and military forces of Texas.

"Thank you Major Harry Preston for

your 21 years of service to our nation and the United States Marine Corps," Abbott stated. "It's a privilege to be here today. Perhaps no better time as we paused to celebrate the founding of our nation this weekend to honor a true American hero.

America is the brightest beacon of freedom the world has ever known because of men like Sergeant Werner Walter Reininger and all who've worn with honor the uniform of the mightiest military in the history of the world.

At just 19 years of age, Ronnie Reininger enlisted in the U.S. Marine Reserves. Two years later, in the winter of 1950, this son of a grocer was a world away from his hometown in San Antonio, Texas. Ronnie Reininger was repelling enemy attacks on the frozen tundra of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The temperature was 30 degrees below zero. Our Marines were surrounded and outnumbered by Chinese troops. But the

United States Marine Corps is never out-

Then-Corporal Reininger displayed extraordinary courage. As the Fifth Marines made a heroic stand, Cpl. Reininger fearlessly moved his machine gun section along the hillsides to protect the road on which thousands of Marines were travel-

His regiment beat off attack after attack after attack. With enemy troops all around, there was no front, no rear and no flank. Cpl. Reininger boldly turned his machine gun around to direct withering fire over the heads of his fellow Marines. When condensation caused his gun to jam, Cpl. Reininger repeatedly exposed his bare hands to clear his weapons, and each time his fingers froze a little deeper. Yet still he fought on.

On December 6, 1950, his Section

See AWARD page 6A

We Stand United 3 July 25, 2015 **Fundraising Dinner/Auction** Help take care of Waller County!

For event and ticket information, please see Page 7A.



Governor Greg Abbott (seated) presents the Lone Star Medal of Valor Award to Werner W. "Ronnie" Reininger (right), CPL., USMC (retired) in San Antonio, Texas. The esteemed military service decoration is awarded to an active member or veteran of the United States Armed Services who has demonstrated outstanding bravery and heroism while serving. Photo credit: Texas Governors Office.

## **Your Local Waller County Weather**

July 8

Wednesday

July 9

**Thursday** 

Clear H 92° L 73°

July 10 Clear H 92° L 72°

Friday

Saturday July 11

Partly Cloudy H 93° L 73

July 12 Partly Cloudy H 94° L 73°

Sunday

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Monday

Clear H 94° L 73°

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Tuesday July 14 H 94° L 73°



# Waller Wonders - Waller Freedom Fest a "booming" success!

By NANCY ARNOLD



udos to the Waller Ministerial Alliance and the City of Waller for yet

another awesome Fourth of July Freedom Fest. This will embarrass him, but an extra round of applause goes to Joel Bauler with the Ministerial Alliance for heading up this giant undertaking for the first time.

This year marked an exchange of leadership roles between the organizers, with the Ministerial Alliance taking the lead on planning and executing, and the City of Waller primarily handling the finances. Wonderful teamwork!

Well over 8,200 people turned out Friday and Saturday, with over 2,700 at the Friday night Worship Night and Veterans Recognition. While admission was free on both days, more than 5,000 pounds of canned goods and another \$5,000

in cash was collected for Waller Assistance and Restoration Ministry (WARM) food pantry to distribute during the summer months when the need is so great.

When we're celebrating freedom, we must always remember the millions of armed service members who have fought, and are still fighting, for those precious freedoms. A few minutes of watching the news and seeing what citizens of other countries go through should make us even more grateful for the abundance of blessings that God has given

Hundreds of volunteers and sponsors work countless hours to make our Freedom Fest possible, including dozens of law enforcement officers from the Waller Police Department and other agencies, the Waller Volunteer Fire Department, and the ambulance crews from the Waller-Harris ESD #200.

Nothing like this happens without sponsors – businesses and individuals who give generously to make an event of this magnitude possible. While we're grateful to all of our sponsors, there are a few who deserve extra recognition.

Republic Waste, the folks that pick up our garbage every week, provided all the trash receptacles for the event, in addition to a cash donation. Trash cans are pretty important when you have over 8,000 people on the grounds!

The Waller Economic Development Corporation helped cover the cost of the billboard on Hwy 290 and donated money.

The Waller Times, our local newspaper - THIS newspaper that you're reading right now! - has provided free advertising space every year and lots of articles leading up the festivities.

Where would we be without the Waller ISD? Where, indeed? The school district very generously donates the use of the property and facilities for the Festival each year, and a great facility it is. We're particularly thankful for large, clean restrooms!

When you have an opportunity to patronize any of these sponsors, please do: Towne Dental; Waller County Land; Lindon Mfg/Impact; Waller Family Eyecare; Waller Veterinary Clinic; The Gustafson Group; Prosperity Bank; Waller Subway; Florida ChemPro; Clay & Leyendecker; Brookshire Bros., and Holiday Inn Express.

More sponsors include: Buc-ee's: The Rural Connection: First National Bank of Bellville -Waller Branch: Goodman Manufacturing (building that huge plant just east of Waller); Waller County Golf Cars; KSBJ Radio; America's Best Value Inn. and Sim-Tex, LP, Stress Engineering, and Waller Area Chamber of Commerce; all three of which have been sponsors since the first Freedom Fest.

dors, of course, and they were people for miles around could see great. There was entertainment them, too. Fabulous! for all ages. I'll forget something, but perhaps you enjoyed bumper filled weekend for Coach Mike boats and bubble runners; rock Miller, and it had nothing to do climbing and zip-lines (for the with fireworks. Well, not tradiadventurous); waterslides and the dunking booth; the bouncy house and quad jumper (hopefully before eating a hot dog!); the petting zoo for the little ones; a video game trailer (out of the digestion and heartburn aren't sun), and the wonderful live music both days.

Crafts? You want it, it was there. I'm betting you picked up their cards, too, for future purchases.

Lines for helicopter rides are always long, but \$25 gets you a breath-taking aerial view of Waller and the surrounding countryside. Folks say it's fun, but wife, Theresa, daughter Krista, alas, I'm just not that brave.

Food choices – well, there son Karter. were too many to name, but no one could possibly leave the Festival hungry. I'm a simple soul; I drool over fresh kettle corn and Davis, Sarah Flukinger Hillman, lemonade! I wouldn't turn down Scott Franz, Colton Mundy, Lee a hot dog, piled high with chili, cheese, and onions.

lose that awe. Bonus: not only did Dollins. the thousands on the ground and

This has been a blessingtional fireworks, anyway. For one thing, he's alive, and that was in doubt for a few minutes. As it turns out, and he will probably warn anyone who will listen, inalways "just indigestion and heartburn." In Mike's case, they signaled a heart attack – one of the potentially deadly ones.

Thanks to rapid response teams and the skilled doctors, nurses and staff at Tomball Regional Hospital, Mike – and his new stent – are resting at home in the watchful care of his wonderful son-in-law Kris, , and his grand-

Get well, Coach Mike from all your friends and neighbors!

Happy birthday to Russel Alexander, Kinleigh Compton, Colby Boettcher, McKenzie Al-You don't think I forgot about yse Bryant, Kyle Jordan, Harold the fireworks! How is that even LaRoche, Faith Elaine McCaffety, possible? I'm six years old again Jennifer Polk, Terry Holz Hoffart, when those sparkly streamers David Tomczak, Sharon Helfrich, start flying and explosions fill the Bob Powers, Nita Walenta, Mike air. It's as if I've never seen fire- Dean, Peggy Bundick, Kelsi Raye works before, and I hope I never Loewe, Jeanell Hart, and Blake

Ringing the anniversary

We have to thank the ven- in the stands get to enjoy the show, bells for Raymond and Virginia Loewe, Tom and Gretchen Lamson, Paul and Teresa Burk, Tommy and Samantha Paben, Gerald and Novella Sheffield, Neal and Lou Wawarofsky, Greg and Summer Rivenbark, Chris and Lauren Saladino Crites, Rick and Diane Fritzsching, and Don and Kathy

> We're one month into Hurricane Season, and we've been very lucky ... so far. Even if this is our year to catch a big one, we're in extremely good hands, 'cause Waller Police Chief Phil Rehak also wears the Emergency Management Coordinator hat (we're a small community, after all!).

He meets regularly with the Harris County Emergency Management Team on exactly what to do in case of a hurricane – or any other kind of area-wide emergency - to provide safety and guidance to our citizens. Chief Rehak has a great working relationship with the Waller County Emergency Management folks, too.

The Emergency Management Coordinator job means many extra hours of training and planning, and I'm confident that Chief Rehak can handle it – and us – no matter the emergency. However, I'm okay with no hurricane and no emergency!

Until next week ...

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

# Nine Black-Robed Justices Wield Tremendous Power

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY



When the Supreme Court justices overstep their authority, whether you agree with their deci-

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sion or not, it endangers the rights court is not a legislature. Whether of all Americans.

preme Court legalized same-sex the law is, not what it should be." marriage across all 50 states.

who wrote one of the opinions to follow in its wake, has changed against the decision, read his the basic unit of the family forever, opinion from the bench for the and has negated the importance of first time in his 10 years of serv- gender, the distinctive attributes ing as chief justice.

In his opinion, he argued that, to their children. "..the court had no right to inter-

state level."

same-sex marriage is a good idea In a 5-4 decision, announced should be of no concern to the on Friday, June 26, in the latest Court. Under the Constitution, case of judicial overreach, the Su- judges have the power to say what

No, the sky is not falling, but Chief Justice John Roberts, this decision, and others certainly of males and females, as parents

A deep question arises from vene in what should be a demo- this and other recent Supreme cratic debate by the people at the Court decisions, "Are we still living in an America where "we the Roberts went on to state, "The people" decide what kind of society we want to live in, or our "betters", the elites in Washington, imposing their ideology on us?

> For example, last year's Supreme Court decision declaring Obamacare constitutional says that the federal government can order individual citizens to buy the kind of insurance the government wants them to buy, even though the Constitution gives the federal government no such power. To approve of the law, the

Supreme Court declared the insurwas a fine, not a tax.

and high out-of-pocket costs of Obamacare are worth it, wait till 2016, when the employer manimpact of the law before the next bulk of power to the states.

the people and their elected repre- a decentralized system. sentatives. The people have never approved the Affordable Care Act sesses great allure. It seduces us by a majority.

ernment can exercise powers not pler to wield federal power and authorized by either statute or the Constitution, "we the people" are no longer free citizens, but by taking this easy route, the powsubjects, and those "serving" the ers in Washington have usurped people in government are now our the very power that the Constitu-"masters"

Our nation is now allowing the federal government to regu- bottle. late state laws, which destroys the very constitutional structure of our nation and reduces the freedom of all. We have obliterated the 10th Amendment to the Constitution and state sovereignty and have turned the system the framers envisioned on its head.

Save money

With this growing centralized ance penalty to be a tax, despite power, especially in the judicial the fact that the administration and executive branches of governhad claimed over and over that it ment, we have opened the door wide to an all-powerful national And for those of you that government, relegating the states still think the high deductibles, and the people to mere spectators, subject to the whim of Washing-

ton's powerbrokers. Early Americans wisely date is set to kick in, as well as the feared centralized power. They "cadillac tax" for those of us who fought a long, bloody war to free still have decent insurance poli- themselves from the tyranny of cies. The effects of the law have England. So, they created a govbarely begun, since most regula- ernment with limited, specifically tions were delayed to lessen the prescribed authority and left the

Why? Because the people Again, in that 5-4 decision can better exercise control and the court usurped the power from protect the rights of the people in

Yet, centralized power poswith a Siren song and tempts us When any branch of gov- with an easy fix. We find it simforce all states to fall in line than fight battles in all 50 states. But, tion was written to protect.

The genie is now out of the

Ultimately, we should not leave the protection of our rights to any judge or government. We should shoulder the responsibility by demanding accountability. The system is made to be corrected, and justices can be impeached. Sadly, however, due to overwhelming political correctness, and a lack of leadership in Washington, that route is highly unlikely.

As our third great president, Thomas Jefferson, once stated, "Who will govern the governors? There is only one force in the nation that can be counted on to keep the government pure and the government honest, and that is the people themselves. They alone, if well informed, are capable of preventing corruption of power, and restoring the nation to its rightful course, if it should go astray. They alone are the safest depository of the ultimate powers of government."

Sadly, in this "information age", the American people are less informed about their government and current events than ever before. How can we 'right the wrongs' if we do not even know what the wrongs are or even know the basics of the workings of gov-

Either out of ignorance or apathy, the people remain silent, and tend to acquiesce to decisions made by the government. As long as we continue to do so, the power of nine unelected justices will remain high, and we, the people, are to blame.

Please note that this forced cultural shift imposed by the court is far from over. It is just the beginning. After the same-sex decision, for instance, several national publications published editorials, like the one in Time Magazine--"Now's the time to End Tax Exemptions for Religious Institutions." In addition, lawsuits are already being filed to legalize polygamy across the nation, because the majority opinion in the samesex marriage case says nothing to prohibit such unions.

Remember that as of now, in our democratic republic, everyone has a voice, and they should feel free to use it. Many speak of not liking the direction our nation is taking, but voice no objection. It is ultimately up to "we the people" to change the course of our nation.

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

# THE WALLER

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Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 am - 5 pm and Friday 9 am - 12 noon.

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The Waller Times welcomes readers to submit club news, community and church news, school news or farm and ranch news. All articles and news briefs run on a space available basis. We do, however, reserve the right o edit all news items for length, as well as controversial subjects or anything that may be libelous or slanderous. All fundraisers, thank yous, garage sales, events with a ticket/cover charge, or events that are held by multiple organizations such as Vacation Bible Schools. Revivals, etc. are considered advertising and needs to be a paid advertisement. Email news articles as microsoft word files or in body of email and all photos as jpg files only to the email address above. Deadline to submit is Fridays by 12 noon for consideration.

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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

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** We welcome Letters to the Editor, however, all letters <u>must be signed</u> 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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## 7th Annual Back to School Health Fair Set The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M

News Briefs

University, Department of State Health Services and Texas Children, along with other partners, will be providing services such as immunization, educational information and school supplies during the 7th Annual Waller County Back to School Health Fair. They provide educational activities and information throughout the event such as nutrition, food safety and other health related issues. This event takes place July 22, 2015 at the Waller High School (cafeteria) from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. For more information, call Extension Agent Te'Anna Reed 979-826-7651.

# Waller Police Department Activity for June 22nd to June 28th

Officers responded to 45 calls for service resulting in two incident reports and one arrest.

On June 24, Officer Fernand responded to the 31300

to a disturbance in progress. Officer Fernand settled the disturbance on-scene with no criminal charges being filed. However, an adult female in-

Waller Police Department block of FM 2920 in reference volved in the disturbance was found to have an outstanding warrant for her arrest. She was taken into custody and transported to the Waller County Jail without incident.

On June 27, Officer Bellard conducted a traffic stop on FM 2920 near the intersection with Stokes Road on a motorist that was observed to be speeding. The officer discovered in

that the operator did not have a valid driver's license and did not have insurance or proof of other financial responsibility.

the course of the traffic stop The operator was issued multiple traffic citations and the vehicle was impounded and towed from the public road-



The Waller County VFW, Post 4007, donated two large BBQ briskets to the Focusing Families organization in June. Shown (l-r) is VFW member Scott Duncan and members of Focusing Families. Post 4007 seeks to help not only veterans, but all communities in Waller County. Submitted photo.

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#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

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# TLU Releases Dean's List for Spring 2015

Texas Lutheran University (TLU) recently announced that 365 students were named to the Dean's Academic Honor List and President's Academic Honor List for the 2015 spring semester, including Shelbi V. Bush, of Hempstead.

# DID YOU KNOW?

You can learn more about W.A.R.M. at www.wallerassistance.org. And you can also join us on Facebook.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate your garage sale items to W.A.R.M. and get a receipt for your taxes instead of spending all day in the hot sun on your day off.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

You are invited to shop at W.A.R.M. Treasures Thrift Shop, find one of a kind treasures, make new friends, and insure that the shop remains open to serve Waller

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

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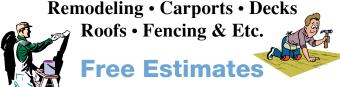
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A local resident has had her first book published, "I Am Not Broken".

It describes how she had a brain aneurism and stroke, just six months after her 30+ year marriage ended. It is a story about learning to live again, laugh and love, even though she has a feeding tube. "I Am Not Broken" is available at all the major book stores, on-line and thru Amazon.

# Schultz Junior High Students Sweep UIL Meet

**WISD Public Information** 

Many students from Schultz Junior High visited Brabham Middle School to compete in UIL speaking and writing events. Some 21 students from Schultz Junior High placed in their respective events after competing against seven other schools.

Mason Roebuck and Deavion Williams placed third and sixth in seventh-grade Social Studies, respectively. Glen Rollins took fifth place in eighth-grade Social Studies. The Social Studies teams were coached by Schultz Junior High teacher Angela McCain. Grace Stewart took first place in eighth-grade Ready Writing, and Meaghan Simpson placed fifth.

These students were coached by Schultz Junior High teacher Melynda Jones. Simpson also took second place in eighth-grade Art, coached by Amy Barina. Kassidy Johnson placed second in seventh-grade Editorial Writing, coached by Elaine Lucas, and third place in seventh-grade Number Sense, coached by Robert Smith. Kriston Winner earned third place in eighth-grade Editorial Writing, coached by Elaine Lucas.



Students from Schultz Junior High competed at the UIL meet at Brabham Middle School before letting out for the summer. Pictured are many of the winners with the medals they earned in their events after the meet. WISD Public Information.

Jasmine Prince took fourth place in seventh-grade Listening Skills. Jenna Beyer took first place in eighth-grade Listening Skills, and Tori Wright took third place. The students who competed in Listening Skills were coached by Misty Pocius.

Daniel Hartman brought home third place in seventhgrade Spelling, and Averi Johnson placed fifth. Nicole Garza placed first in 8th grade Spelling, Abbigayle Leslie took second place, and Virginia DeCoste took fourth place. The UIL Spelling team was coached by Schultz Junior High teacher Brittany Mitchell.

Kayla Maywald placed fifth in seventh-grade Number Sense, and Issac Esquivel and Laura Duncan placed third and sixth in eighth-grade Number Sense,

respectively. The Number Sense team was coached by Robert Smith.

Coached by Carrie Fitch, Francisco Maldonado took fourth place in eighth-grade Dictionary Skills. Dora Camann and Callista Duncan placed first and third in seventh-grade Science, respectively. The UIL Science team was coached by Michelle Carr

# Jesus Otero Wins Beta Nationals with Artwork

By LAURIE BETTIS
HISD Public Information

Congratulations to Jesus Otero for winning first place in Charcoal Sketch on the national level of the Junior Beta Club. The competition was part of the National Junior Beta Convention held at the Gaylord Opry-

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land Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee June 25-29.

The Mary J. Ragston Chapter of Junior Beta from Hempstead Middle School earned the invitation to compete at the national level by placing in three events at the Texas Junior Beta Convention last February. Winning on the national level is quite an accomplishment and an honor for Hempstead Middle School.

Otero, along with his fellow junior Beta members and sponsors from Hempstead Middle School would like to thank everyone who participated in the fundraisers that help make it possible for them to travel Nashville to participate in the event.



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DID YOU KNOW?

When you shop at W.A.R.M. Treasures Thrift Shop you are helping your community.



Congratulations to Jesus Otero for placing first in the Charcoal Sketch competition at the National Junior Beta Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee. Otero is pictured with HMS Junior Beta Sponsor Robert Thomas. HISD Public Information.

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July 20-24, 2015

## 6:00-8:00 PM ##

- Dinner Served Daily
- Located just 1 mile from Fields Store Elementary behind the Community Center
- Call 979-412-0376 for more information.

facebook.com/NewHope1845





# AWARD Continued from page 1A

came under intense mortar fire. An enemy round blew him out of his defensive position. But Cpl. Reininger crawled back to his machine gun. And he fought

As he drew fire away from his Regiment, another mortar round burst in front of his position again, knocking him down. But Cpl. Reininger again crawled back to his gun to discover he was the only gunner left. Yet still he fought on.

Alone in the winter darkness, Cpl. Reininger continued firing his machine gun at the advancing Chinese loading belt after belt after belt of ammunition until he ran out. He then picked up his service rifle to continue the fight until another mortar round exploded directly in his position, severing his right leg and shredding his previously wounded left leg.

When found later by a Marine patrol on the rough, frozen land, Cpl. Reining was declared dead until he coughed and spit out his dog tag which had been placed in his mouth. Once evacuated from Korea to Japan and then back to the States, Ronnie underwent 16 surgeries. Eventually he lost both legs and all of his fingers. Yet still he fought

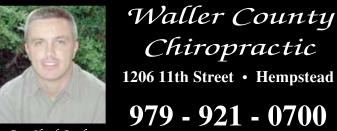
selfless service, leadership and dedication to duty above and beyond. His repeated acts of valor inspired others to fight on and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and military forces of Texas. Though medically retired, he has continually given back to the military community, especially to Marine Corps veterans in San Antonio. And the Korean War memorial would not stand eternal "Night Watch" on Me-

chose to live the credo that character – not circumstances – makes the man.

Sergeant, you are an inspiration to your family, your daughter Sandy, with us today, your son Steven, your grandchildren and great grandchildren and to us all. The First Lady of Texas joins me in thanking you for your service to our country. Your extraordinary bravery, determination and devotion to your brothers in arms embodhero. America and the cause of freedom around the world have been made stronger by your service and sacrifice.

It is my distinct honor on behalf of the people of Texas to present the highest military decoration awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Services in this great state, the Lone Star Medal of Valor, to Sgt. Ronnie Reininger.

May God bless you and may God forever bless the United States of America."







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# CALH Fights Landfill with Fundraiser

Citizens Against the Land- a ZZ Top package, and more. fill in Hempstead (CALH) and its many supporters have been fighting a proposed landfill on Hwy 6 just north of Hwy 290 outside of Hempstead for over four years. Facing a costly, contested case hearing in Austin in November 2015, CALH is hosting its 3rd dinner/auction fundraising event on July 25, 2015, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 22892 Mack Washington Lane, in Hemp-

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Live and silent auctions, as well as a bucket raffle are planned, with auctions items including an assortment of guns including AR15's, sports memorabilia including JJ Watt autographed jersey, Florida condo package, ATV two-seat John Deere gator, Z245 zero turn lawnmower, an assortment of deep sea and bay fishing packages, coolers, cookers, handmade quilts, a T-Rex,

For more auction information

or to make a donation, please contact Bill Jordan at 713-724-3084.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at



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Congratulations to band members for receiving awards during the annual band banquet held on Friday night, May 1. Kaylyn Contreras was awarded the Band Director's Award. Humberto Felix received the Most Improved Award. The Brass Award went to Giovanni Sandoval; Woodwind Award went to Andrea Middleton; Percussion Award went to Xandria Hansford; and Color Guard Award went to Charli Villarreal. The Band Boosters Scholarship was awarded to Maribel Garfias. Pictured are (l-r) Charli Villarreal, Humberto Felix, Kaylyn Contreras, Giovanni Sandoval, and Andrea Middleton. HISD Public Informa-











The Afterschool Centers for Education ACE robotics program students from Roberts Road Elementary competed in the HP Kids' Day Competition on Friday, May 15. The team from Roberts Road placed second in Robotics and third overall in the Robotics and Marketing competition. Pictured are the students who competed in the HP Kids' Day competition after their robots dominated the competition. WISD Public Information.

# Fifth-Grade Students Plant for Science

WISD Public Information

The fifth-grade students of Katherine Eckermann's class have put their vast science knowledge to practical use by planting a garden outside of Fields Store Elementary. Each student was assigned their own plant, and was charged with the task of watering and maintaining their plant until it matures.

Students were made completely responsible for tending to their plant, recording observations, keeping the plants disease and pest-free and being knowledgeable about their plant's life cycle. The students planted a variety of vegetables and fruit including zucchini, squash, tomatoes, okra, jalapenos, cucumbers and bell peppers.

Each student expressed their excitement to try the food their plant will produce once matures. Some of the students were excited about the growth of their plants, while others expressed intelligent concern. A few growers of the tomato plants were

Pictured are fifth-grade students Junior Gomez and Alton Morgan studying the green bell pepper plants they planted for Katherine Eckermann's science class. The students were attempting to develop a hypothesis to explain what has been eating holes in the leaves of their plants. WISD Public Information.

concerned about the recent wind damaging the stalks of their tomato plants, while the green bell pepper growers were thinking critically to figure out what pest has been eating holes in the leaves of their plant.

A special thanks to Fields Store Elementary teacher Katherine Eckermann for implementing this exciting project, the Waller ISD Maintenance Department for building the planting boxes and the Waller ISD School Nutrition Services Department and Director April Pinkham for supplying the needed resources for the project.

# WCA Surpasses National Average 4th Year In A Row

Recently, Waller Christian in the 90th percentile in any giv-Academy (WCA) administered the TerraNova 3 nationally based achievement test to grades Kindergarten through 8th. WCA students exceeded expectations with five out of the six tested grades coming out at or above the national average for all private, parochial, and public schools using the TerraNova 3 testing program.

Over 85% of WCA students tested in the top 10Th percentile in the nation in one or more tested subject areas. If a student scored

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en test, then comparatively, they scored higher than 90 percent of students nationwide in the same subject and grade level.

The TerraNova 3 is a technically sound and up-to-date assessment program that provides the most recent national comparisons. Out of the three major national achievement tests available, the TerraNova 3 is used by 45% of schools testing in the United States, which is a definitive majority of the testing demographic considering the testing options that are available.

WCA students were also tested in the area of biblical foundations and understanding. Although the Bible Test scores were not provided with percentile rankings, the student body as a whole proved to be proficient in the area of biblical understanding for their grade level.

"Waller Christian believes that God did not create children with standardized minds and therefore standardized tests are not the only way that our children prove their learned gifts," stated WCA Principal Tiffany Johnston. "Although WCA does not believe that a child's success is measured by any one test given on any specific day, the TN3 is a proven evaluative tool and our results prove that our program is of the highest quality. Great job WCA students & families!"

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# Waller Junior High April PROS Names Announced



Waller Junior High School recognized 52 students for the April Principal's Recognition of Outstanding Students PROS program for April. They are: sixth-grade students Duncan Begg, Alessandro Benavides, Fabian Favela, Emely Gallegos, Daniela Garcia, Dellandry Harvey, Cole Holladay, Aiden Kelsay, Ezequiel Lopez, Ingrid Machuca, Emily Maldonado Posadas, Madalyn Mier, Jesus Miranda, William Misak, Antonio Pascual, Maximo Ramirez, Carlos Rodarte, Soleil Salgado, Nataly Torrijos, Jonathan Vallejo, Michael Vega, Cesar Villa and Bailey Williams; seventh-grade students Rosa Belmonte, Jateaveon Boley, Alisya Bradley, Moises Caballero, Ricky Cantu, Chillion Carter, Brianna Connelly, Benito De Leon, Anderson Gonzales, Victoria Lewandowski, Sierra Malone-Eades, Mauricio Plaza-Cabello, Eduardo Quezada, Clarissa Quintana, Prince Ram, Anthony Ramirez, Marc Reyes, LeeAnn Schmidt, Daniela Sosa, Marshall Werner, Aaron Williams and John Williams; and eighth-grade students Sean Anthis, Lauren Becerra, Salvador Carreon, Justin Coleman, Vickia Hamilton, Katie Ingram and Christopher Wren. WISD Public Information.



WISD Public Information

recognized 52 students for the free slushy at lunch. April Principal's Recognition of Outstanding Students PROS

In order to be recognized as a Waller Junior High PROS student, a student who exhibits leadership qualities and strives to maintain a positive school environment must be nominated by a teacher in an email sent to the principal.

PROS is an incentive program implemented at Waller Junior High by Principal Eric Meldahl that recognizes students who make positive choices. At the end of the month, the students who were nominated are recognized by the principal

E

and receive a certificate of ap-Waller Junior High School preciation, and a coupon for a

In addition, parents re-

ceive a phone call home to hear about their child's recognition of exceptional behavior at school.



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The kindergarten, first and second-grade students of Roberts Road Elementary were amazed by the Texas Snake Man just before school let out as he handled several snakes and reptiles with great skill. The presentation was a part of Texas Snakes & More's snake and reptile shows, which seeks to entertain people of all ages and inform the public about common snake and reptile myths and misconceptions. The hope of the company is that the show generates a respect for the animals, and educates the general public about snakes and reptiles. Texas Snakes and More is based in Houston, Texas and has traveled around the state imparting knowledge on crowds since 2002. Students at Roberts Road were able to look and touch a variety of snakes and reptiles as they learned several important facts about the creatures. The teachers also enjoyed getting to help the handler hold the snakes. WISD Public Information.





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### **HOMES READY FOR YOU**

3/2 home in Grimes County with a 2 car attached garage with workshop and drive threw 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

5/2 home in the city of Hempstead. Split floor plan with formal dining room, living room, den, & a spacious kitchen. Located on 2 1/2 lots on corner. Home has fenced back yard, 2-car attached garage, additional parking for RV or boat. Within walking distance to schools & library......SOLD.....\$162,500

## **HOMES READY FOR YOU**

Custom built home on 2 city lots. This home has 3-bedrooms, 2 full baths, large living/dinning area, a converted garage and a workshop. Location provides quick access to Highway 290 and puts the owner is less than a hour driving distance to Brenham, Navasota, College Station or Cypress. Close to shopping and schools. HISD.....REDUCED...\$125,000

### **COMMERCIAL**

New on the Market! Being sold as commercial or residential property. This 3/2 home features a living room iwth a fireplace & wet bar, spacious kitchen, and a back yard swimming pool. Great location for home business...... ...ASKING...\$185,000



# In The Spotlight



om built home on two city lots. This home has 3-bedrooms 2-full baths, large living/dinning area, a converted 1-car ga rage, and a workshop. Property has beautiful mature oak trees flower beds, concrete patio, partially fenced in the front and a chain link fence in the back. Location provides quick access distance to Brenham, Navasota, College Station, or Cypress Close to shopping and schools. Hempstead ISD school needs a little TLC.......................REDUCED...



New on the Market! 12.558 beautiful acres in Waller County wou be a great place to build your new home. Property is partially fenced with Ag. Exemption. The sellers have cleared the interior of the land and left the exterior in a beautiful natural state for privacy. Towering oak trees, partially fenced and slightly sloped with plenty of grass for the livestock. Property is unrestricted so the buyer could have a horse farm, cattle farm, leisure ranch, or weekend getway NO FLOOD PLAIN!!! Great location with easy access to FM 1488 or Hwy 6 via FM 2979........SXING......\$215,000

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# **Obituary**

#### **FITTING**



Fortis Luther Fitting happily went home to his Heavenly Father June 30, 2015. Fortis was born August 26, 1919 in York, NE to a German immigrant, John C. Fitting who was a Lutheran minister and a German mother, Emma Anna Marie Catherine Elizabeth Benien born in Ohio. His family

kota, Kansas, and Texas. Fortis worked in a Bomb Loading Plant and as a Dental Supply Salesman before being drafted into the Army in 1943. After the war he returned home to his wife and 3yr old son, Gary. Another son, Richard and daughter, Patricia were born while he worked as a radio and TV repairman. In 1952, he moved to Rosenberg, TX and worked at Herfort Gift Shop, managed a Conoco Station then went to work for United Geophysical doing oil exploration. While with United he was transferred for 2 years to look for oil in Queensland, Australia where he was instrumental in finding the locations of the first five oil wells. Returning home, Fortis went to work for Geodata working with large computer

lived in Nebraska, South Da-

systems storing Seismic data. From there he retired to live full time in Cuero, TX being very active in St. Mark's Lutheran Church teaching Adult Sunday School, the Cuero Lion's Club and the Thursday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast. In 2005 after his wife, Robbie passed away, he moved to Waller, TX to live with his daughter and son-in-law where he came to love the people of St. John's Lutheran Church and his Sunday School class.

Fortis is preceded by his parents, brothers and sisters-inlaw, Victor and Alice and Hans and Lillian, sister Ellen Marie, two wives, Berniece and Robbie, sons, Gary and Richard, daughter-in-law, Judy Daniel and son-in-law John Moore.

He is survived by daughter and son-in-law Patricia and

2 Locations to Serve You Better!

Alan Shelfer of Waller, step daughter, Bunnie Moore of Rosenberg and step son, Jimmy Daniels of Cotulla. He has 17 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, 3 greatgreat-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 2:00 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero, Texas with burial following. There will also be a Memorial Service on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 11:00 am at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waller, Texas with a luncheon following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Cuero, St. John's Lutheran Church of Waller, or the Texas Lions Camp of Kerrville as these were Fortis' passion.

# **Shiloh Baptist Church**

"A Place For New Beginnings"



**Traditional Song** 

Sunday School ......10:00 a.m. Worship Hour ......11:00 a.m. 

Loving God....

Other

Church is located at 23752 FM 1098 Hempstead, Texas 77445

Wednesday Night Prayer & Praise ..... 6:00 p.m.

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#### **ACREAGE**

2 ACRES: Pine Lake Estates in Plantersville. Restricted. Nice homes. Waller ISD. Near MagnoliaPENDING \$22,000/ac.
3 ACRES: in Plantersville on dead-end road. Unrestricted. Peaceful setting
10 ACRES: Wooded tract in scenic North Waller County. Lightly restricted with community water. Waller ISD\$15,000/ac.
15.85 ACRES: in gated Skymac Ranch. 2,000 sq. ft. insulated barn with large porch, pond & long frontage & Ag
exempt\$289,900
18 ACRES: Fenced, lightly restricted, Ag exempt. Easy access to Hwy. 6
36 ACRES: in north Waller County. Pond, large trees & choice homesites. Unrestricted\$11,000/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
40.9 ACRES: Near Hempstead. Unrestricted. More acreage available
50 ACRES: in Hockley. Heavily wooded & bordered on the south by Three Mile Creek. Approx. 85% in the flood plain. Several good
building sites out of the flood plain. Peaceful with lots of wildlife
50 ACRES: 2 minutes south of Waller. Fenced, well, electricity, driveway w/gate & seasonal creek\$11,500/ac.
50.25 ACRES: Near Hempstead. Unrestricted. More acreage available
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
144 ACRES: Organic Farm. Rolling, unrestricted, 4 ponds, 3 barns & working pens. Fronts Cochran Road\$10,500/ac.

## **HOMES**

## **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 & 

### **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 35 ACRE RANCH: on Hwy 6 north of Hempstead in Grimes County. Gated w/3-2-2 rock home with metal roof, high ceilings, 

# **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



**Roger Frey** 



Rendy Elizalde

#### **COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT**

OUNINE - HAVESTWENT
0.92 ACRE: City of Brookshire. Commericial or residential. City utilitiesPENDING\$62,000
1.5 ACRES: Just 1 block north of I-10 in Brookshire. Zoned commercial
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 inter-
section for easy access
63 ACRES: Field Store Rd & US Hwy 290 - Excellent location for residential or commercial development. City water &
sewer. Rapidly growing area. Ag exempt
450 ACRES: Excellent for residential or light industrial development in Katy. 1.5 miles north of I-10 & 15 miles from the
energy corridor\$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 businessPENDING\$275,000
SEALY: Prime commercial location. 0.332 acre on 36 (Meyer St.) between I-10 & Hwy 90 next to auto parts store. Currently
has older 3-2-2 home on the property\$350,000
<b>HEMPSTEAD:</b> Investment opportunity - 8 houses on 8 lots. Must be sold together. All but one is currently leased\$364,430
<b>HEMPSTEAD:</b> 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

# **Featured Listings**



COUNTRY ESCAPE: 1,200 sq. ft. 1-1 home with 1,200 sq. ft. 4-car garage. The 2,400 sq. ft second story is unfinished. All on 3.3 acres with separate 1-1 furnished guest quarters. Nicely landscaped with covered front porch, deck, hot tub, separate BBQ area & large workshop.......\$180,000



CYPRESS: Very attractive 4-2.5-2 two story on oversized lot in Riata West. Built in 2012 with open floor plan, island kitchen, granite countertops, crown molding & custom paint. Easy access 

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  - ★ Anett Mier ★ Kenneth Murphy ★ Terri McNeill ★ Travis Winfree

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4440 3-2-2 Brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre..... \$218,000



4450 4-2.1-2 Brick home, two story, nice large corner lot with large shade trees......\$196,500



4452 3-3.1-3 Ranch style home with circle drive, fruit trees, workshop, cross fenced, recent roof, ag exempt......\$479,900



hogany lanai doors that open onto the back patio area, beautiful fireplace, professionally landscaped pool area, large master with custom details, elevators with antique features, theatre room with automatic leather reclining chairs, barn with stalls and guest quarters, on 13 acres with improved pastures......\$1,200,000



4457 3-2 Brick home on 9th green, 2 1/2 lots, huge island kitchen, formal dining, study, large patio overlooks golf course, garage with shop and half bath......PENDING......\$237,500



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

### **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE**

# 

### **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 Acre horse ranch with rail fencing, FM frontage, barns, stables, 8 acre lake, lar	ge irrigated hay
field, additional ponds, main home shaded by large oaks, additional home on property	\$4,225,000
4360 Ccorner lot in city with utilities	\$4,500

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### **COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE**

4374 10 Acres in subdivision, deed restrictions, Waller ISD
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
4422 Corner lot in Hempstead, additional lots available
4423 Two lots in Hempstead, city utilities available
4431 5 Acres, frontage on 2 roads, close to town, some restrictionsPENDING\$79,500
4432 Unrestricted lot, commercial or residential, community water
4433 4-3-2 Brick home with 2 fireplaces, on 4 acres with pondPENDING\$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
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
4452 3-3.1-3 Ranch style home with circle drive, fruit trees, workshop, cross fenced, recent roof, ag
exempt
4455 11+ acres, heavily wooded, secluded, lots of wildlife, Waller ISD\$146,212
4456 Stunning New Orleans style custom home, with curved mahogany lanai doors that open onto
the back patio area, beautiful fireplace, professionally landscaped pool area, large master with custom
details, elevators with antique features, theatre room with automatic leather reclining chairs, barn with
stalls and guest quarters, on 13 acres with improved pasturesPENDING\$1,250,000



31315 FM 2920 #24 Waller, Texas