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Scripture of the Week
PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11
 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 10 Pages, 2 Sections

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Waller City Council Calls, Cancels Executive Session Last Minute Session Called to Discuss Police Chief's Exit

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

An Executive Session of the Waller City Council was scheduled to take place on Wednesday evening, July 8, at 6 p.m. at the City of Waller Public Works Building. However, the meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

Unlike a meeting of the council in regular session, which requires only three members to form a quorum (minimum number of members that must be present to make the proceedings of that meeting valid), for a special meeting of the Waller City Council to take place, four council members must be present. Mayor Danny Marburger, and three Council members -- Edna Eaton, Sidney Johnson, and Mike McCormick -- were in at-

tendance. Council members Nancy Arnold and Dwayne Hajek were absent, which prompted the City Attorney, Paula Alexander, to cancel the meeting.

According to the mayor, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a retirement package offered to the Chief of Police, Phil Rehak.

Chief Rehak, in regards to the offer, stated that he is not eligible for retirement. When asked if he requested retirement, Rehak stated, "No. I am 51 years old and not eligible to retire, and planned to continue to serve in Waller." Rehak added that he had been given no reason for his retirement offer.

Mayor Marburger stated, however, that he was approached by the chief about a possible retirement.

According to Council members Arnold and Hajek, they were not consulted about the matter of Chief Rehak's retirement package until the package had already been drawn up by the city attorney.

According to the mayor, Rehak is now on vacation until the matter of his retirement package is resolved.

In the interim, Sgt. Michael Williams is filling in for the chief.

Rehak came to Waller as Chief of Police in 2009. He graduated from Boling High School and then from Wharton County Junior College Police Academy in 1982. He earned an associate's degree in criminal jus-

See WALLER page 4A

Commissioners Hear Presentation on EA Pollbooks

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

On Wednesday, July 8, the Waller County Commissioners Court met in regular session at 9 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse. County Judge Trey Duhon conducted the meeting attended by Commissioners John Amsler, Jeron Barnett, Justin Beckendorff, and Russell Klecka.

During public comments, Bill Hunsinger reminded the court of the United We Stand 3 event to take place on Saturday, July 25, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hempstead. Tickets are \$25 each and include a steak dinner. All proceeds are to help pay the legal costs of the Citizens Against the Landfill in Hempstead (CALH) as they continue to fight Pintail, LLC. The event will also include a live

and silent auction, music, and a dance.

Commissioners approved an agreement from First National Bank of Bellville to provide banking services for the county. Originally, bids were sent to banks located within the county, but their offers were not competitive. First National Bank of Bellville is the current depository for county funds.

In further business, commissioners approved the purchase of one new 2015 International Dump Truck through HGAC Buy Program from Santex Truck Centers, LTD., for the purchase price of \$96,541.

Action to allow the County Judge to proceed in authorizing Hill's Construction to begin work on the Waller County Community Center was withdrawn until next week, pending rewriting of agenda

items. After considering several bids, last week the court approved Hill's Construction of Waller for the Community Center project in Prairie View, based on a recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee. The bid for the job was \$1,165,000, but is still subject to negotiation.

Alan Younts, County Auditor, stated that there remains \$1.7 million in the budget from the certificates of obligation, acquired previously for capital improvements on county infrastructure.

Commissioners had also approved for Johnston LLC to move forward with a design for the repair and expansion of the Waller County Library in Hempstead, which was one of the five buildings deemed to be in poor condition by the prior building assessment conducted

by Johnston LLC last year. Commissioners intend for the remaining funds in the budget to complete both the community center and the library projects.

Election Administrator Dan Teed conducted a workshop on the possibility of purchasing new electronic pollbooks for the county. The pollbooks, provided by Election Administrators, LLC, are user-friendly, and have long been in use in several Texas counties. The tablets are for the purpose of polling place voter registration and are highly secure, and unlike the current system, which can be used for other internet activity, these tablets are only usable for voter registration. Teed has looked into options for equipment for the upcoming election due to serious problems encountered with the current equipment and software from Votec.

Stubblefield Awarded Mirabeau Lamar Award of Excellence

By LAURIE BETTIS
 HISD Public Information

Ora Renee Stubblefield, a long-time educator at Hempstead High School, has been awarded the "Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence" from The Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. V. A. M. for Exemplary Achievement in the public school system.

Stubblefield, a 1975 graduate of Hempstead High School, is currently in her 30th year in education. During that time, she has taught at Hempstead High School, Navasota High School and Waller High School. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Prairie View A&M University where she graduated with honors at both events.

Hempstead Masonic Lodge #749 AF&AM presented Stub-

blefield with the award, consisting of a medallion and a certificate, on June 1 during the high school academic awards program. Several members of the Lodge were on hand to make the presentation.

Stubblefield said she enjoys teaching and is honored to receive this award. "I have been blessed and honored with the Teacher of the Year at Hempstead High School, Master Teacher of the Year from Hempstead ISD, Hempstead Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, and now the recipient of the distinguished Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence awarded by members of the Hempstead Masonic Lodge," said Stubblefield. "I would like to acknowledge and thank the

See AWARD page 6A



Ora Renee Stubblefield (aka Mama Stubb) (center) received the "Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence" for outstanding service in the field of education. Lodge members on hand for the presentation (l-r) are Allen "Bing" Crosby, Jimmy Zepeda, and Ray Miller. HISD Public Information.

Waller County Rejected in Countywide Voting Program

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
 The Waller Times

Waller County Elections Administrator Dan Teed received notification on July 1, that Waller County will not be able to participate in the countywide precinct polling place program for the November 3, 2015

General Election. All further meetings regarding countywide voting have been cancelled.

According to the notification received from Andre Montgomery--Staff Attorney, Elections Division, Office of the Texas Secretary of State--his office had already received

completed applications for the maximum amount of statutorily prescribed counties.

Section 43.0076 of the Texas Election Code authorizes the Secretary of State to select only four counties with a population of less than 100,000 for participation in the countrywide

precinct polling place program. Montgomery stated that there has been an incredible amount of interest in the program and encouraged the county to apply for participation again in the future.

Teed stated that he appreciated the number of citizens wish-

ing to participate in developing Vote Centers in Waller County.

"Now the Elections office must concentrate on getting polling places reserved, and determining the hours and number of poll workers needed for the November 3 General Election," Teed stated.

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Waller Police Department Activity for June 29th to July 5th

Waller Police Department Officers responded to 61 calls for service resulting in 13 incident reports and two arrests; additionally officers completed two motor vehicle crash reports.

On June 29, Officer Floyd responded to the 2700 block of Pecan Avenue to investigate the report of a Burglary of a Residence. The complainant reported that unknown persons had entered his residence while he was out of town and stole property. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On June 29, Officer Tyler responded to the 41200 block of Park 290 Drive in reference to the report of a theft of property by fraud. The suspect was not at the location but documentation provided by the business revealed the identity of the person. The estimated loss to the business was in excess of \$2,000. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On June 29, Sgt. Smith took a report of theft by shoplifting at a retail business located in the 40900 block of US Hwy 290. The business provided high quality security video of the theft. Suspect identification is pending. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On July 1, Sgt. Lopez conducted a welfare check of a female in a vehicle in the 40300 block of US Hwy 290. The female stated that a person who was subject to a Protective Order had forced her off the roadway and then stole the keys to her vehicle. The suspect had already fled the scene. Sgt. Lopez assisted the female in obtaining a wrecker service. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On July 2, Officer Castillo and Officer Floyd assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the 1900 block of Daugherty Street. The FBI served a search warrant while

the assisting Waller Police Officers provided security.

On July 2, Officer Floyd arrested a male subject for outstanding municipal warrants in the 40600 block of Business Hwy 290.

On July 2, Officer Castillo responded to investigate the report of Criminal Mischief by Graffiti in the 2600 block of Old Washington Avenue. The business provided security video of the offense. Suspect identification is pending. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On July 4, Officer Fernandez issued a Criminal Trespass Warning to a male in the 19600 block of FM 362. The warning was requested by the resident living at the location.

On July 4, Officer Tyler took a report of Fail to Stop and Give Information from a complainant involved in a minor traffic accident. The complainant reported that another vehicle struck her vehicle and caused minor damage in the 31100 block of FM 2920.

The offending motorist then drove away from the accident without providing the required information. The case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division for further investigation.

On July 4, Officer Floyd arrested a female subject for outstanding municipal warrants in the 20700 block of Stokes Road.

On July 4, Sgt. Smith conducted a traffic stop in the 40000 block of US Hwy 290. The vehicle was found to have Texas license plates that were reported stolen out of the City of Houston. The plates were seized and information was forwarded to Houston Police Department. The operator did not have knowledge of the stolen plates and was released with a traffic citation.

On July 4, Officer Tyler took a report for lost or stolen property in the 20700 block of FM 362. The complainant reported that his wallet was missing.

On July 5, Sgt. Smith responded to the 2000 block of

A Street to investigate the report of family violence. The complainant reported that she had been assaulted and injured by her former boyfriend. The boyfriend had fled the scene prior to the officer's arrival.

Photographs and evidence were collected at the scene. A felony arrest warrant was issued for the boyfriend. This case will be forwarded to the Waller County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

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Texas Joins 26 States in Fighting the EPA's New Power Grab

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency used its fiat authority to essentially claim jurisdiction over every body of water in the United States bigger than a driveway puddle.

Texas, along with 17 other states--Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Wyoming, Michigan, Mississippi, and Louisiana--filed the original suit on Monday, June 29, claiming that the EPA vio-

lated the Clean Water Act and other Supreme Court decisions with its latest power grab.

On Tuesday, June 30, nine other states filed a lawsuit against the federal government in the district court in Savannah, Georgia--South Carolina, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Utah, and Wisconsin--joined the 18 other states in challenging the EPA's "Waters of the U.S.A." rule.

The EPA states that the rule is aimed at better defining the scope of bodies of water protected under the Clean

Water Act. However, there has been tremendous pushback from the Farm Lobby and Republican leaders who say the rule will lead to more regulation and take over of private property.

In a statement released by the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the rule was called "so broad and open to interpretation that everything from ditches and dry creek beds, to gullies, to isolated ponds after a big rain could be considered a "water of the United States", which would subject all such bodies of water to federal reg-

ulations."

The Clean Water Act, signed by Republican President Richard Nixon, only gave the federal government jurisdiction over navigable waters.

Paxton also stated in regards to the new rule, "The EPA's expansion would bring roadside ditches, small ponds on a family farm, and storm water systems, under extremely costly federal regulations."

While the states have filed individually, the lawsuits will likely be dealt with as a whole, as they all made the same complaint.

Local Students Honored at Stephen F. Austin State University

The following students have been named to the Dean's List at Stephen F. Austin State University for the spring semester:

Nancy Cornett, of Hempstead, Nursing, School of Nursing,; and Leah Menard, of

Waller, Interdisciplinary Studies, Elementary Education.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must be enrolled in 12 or more semester hours and maintain a grade-point average of 3.5.

The following student re-

ceived a degree from Stephen F. Austin State University during May commencement exercises:

Emma McCormick, of Brookshire, Bachelor of Sci-

ence, Fashion Merchandising; and

Jacy Armstrong, of Waller, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies.

Sam Houston State University Spring 2015 Graduates Named

The following area students received degrees during Spring 2015 commencement ceremonies at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.


Alyssa Beyer, of Brookshire, received a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Rebecca Chaney, of Brookshire, received a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Psychology.


Daniel Aguirre, of Hempstead, earned a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Criminal Justice; Michael Curtis, of Hempstead, earned a BBA - Bachelor

of Business Admin. Degree, General Business; and Vanessa Wilder, of Hempstead, earned a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Interdisciplinary Studies.

Allison Bonner, of Prairie View, received a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Criminal Justice.

Maricela Jimenez, of Waller, received a BS - Bachelor of Science degree, Interdisciplinary Studies; and Brittany Riemer, of Waller, earned a BBA - Bachelor of Business Admin. degree, General Business.





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Pensacola, Florida Beaches Still Calling My Name

By **STEPHEN JOHNSON**
The Waller Times

I've mentioned before in these pages that Pensacola, Florida is a great family vacation and one that you could easily overlook unless you've been there before. What is striking to me--after a few summer vacations there--is that it keeps

calling my name.

Every spring, I get the "fever" to get back down there with the family and enjoy the low-key ambiance of a seaside community. We've been to many beaches over the years and Pensacola is still our favorite.

While you can argue that Des-

tin has the whiter sandy beaches and a little bluer water, I still enjoy the beaches better in Pensacola. Just off of the main drag at Pensacola Beach (under the big beach ball water tower), there is a beach "ledge" that drops down a bit to the waters edge. It is where we hang our feet in the tides as they ebb and flow, and it is where the multitudes of families wander about in the darkness of night with tiny flashlights searching for the elusive hermit crabs.

This year, our family corralled a few of the shifty crustaceans, with their beady eyes watching the lights as they run sideways across the sand. A family nearby, with children much younger than mine, was busy digging in the tiny holes in the sands hoping to find one of the little monsters. We beckoned them over to our spot and let the little tikes scream and holler as the crabs tried to escape. Eventually, they settled down and netted a couple of the little pets for their vacation show boxes. I'm sure the little creatures will meet the same fate as millions before - an untimely death after the kids find interest in something else. I digress.

A couple of new ventures on our part this summer revealed new experiences I want to pass on to you.

You've heard this before but I now have a new favorite restaurant. It's called Flounders and it is just off of the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk, in line with many other little shops, restaurants and things to see and do. We stopped in one afternoon before



The Pensacola Lighthouse stands against a beautiful summer sky within the limits of the Naval Air Station Pensacola. Built in 1859, the lighthouse tower offers stunning views of Pensacola Pass (where Pensacola Bay meets the Gulf of Mexico), three forts, the Pensacola skyline and the historic Navy Yard. Photo credit: Stephen Johnson, The Waller Times.

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See PENSACOLA page 1B

WALLER Continued from page 1A

tice from Houston Community College, an associate's degree in business administration from WCJC, and a political science degree from Texas A&M.

Rehak served as a patrol

sergeant in the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department and a chief deputy constable in East Bernard. He worked overseas as a police commander of a detention center in Kosovo, and be-

fore being hired as the Waller Police Chief, he worked several years as an air marshal.

Although the agenda for the June 20 public meeting has not been set, the mayor indi-

cated that the matter of Rehak's retirement will be discussed by council at that time. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Waller ISD Administration Building.

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Jones Elementary Students Dazzle Crowd with Talents

WISD Public Information

H.T. Jones Elementary School hosted their 2015 Jones Talent Show during the last week of school. The third, fourth and fifth-graders put on a great show for students, parents and administrators.

The third-grade performances included The Prancin' Tigerettes dancing to Lil' John's Turn Down for What, Justin Lewis sang Flashlight, The Cool Dudes danced to Jump on it, Karsyn Yates-Landor sang Do Re Mi, and D Storm performed a tumbling routine to the Black Eyed Peas' Let's get it Started.

Fourth-grade performers The Neons danced to Shower, J6 danced to Whip and Nae Nae,



The Jones Bobbleheads, a student group from H.T. Jones Elementary, performed at the Jones Talent Show on the last day of school. The students entertained the crowd by dancing around with large cutouts of the Jones administrator's faces to Party in the House Tonight. WISD Public Information.

Azariah Hardy sang Count me in.

Fifth Grade students Haley and Brenda played a piano piece Tocatta, The Jungle Girls danced and sang to War, and The Legends danced to OneRepublic's Counting Stars before The Jones Bob-

bleheads danced to Party in the

House Tonight. The Jones Bobbleheads were the grand finale of the show, and made the crowd roar with laughter as they danced around with large cut outs of the Jones administrator's faces.

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HISD Holds New Student Registration

By LAURIE BETTIS

HISD Public Information

Hempstead ISD will hold registration for new students to the district on Tuesday, August 4, from 11 p.m. – 7 p.m. and Wednesday, August 5, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. for all grade levels. Registration will be held in the Hempstead Elementary School cafeteria, located at 1340 13th Street, in Hempstead.

When registering a child, a parent/guardian must be present unless student is 18 years of age; the parent/guardian must be able to provide two proofs

of residency that list the parent/guardians name and physical address such as a property deed, HISD Property tax statement, current lease/rental agreement, current utility statement or current personal business mail; the parent/guardian must be able to provide state issued identification such as a driver's license or state issued ID; and legal guardians must have legal guardianship papers. Also please provide a copy of divorce decree signed and dated by the judge stating custody, if applicable.

The documents that are re-

quired to enroll a child include a completed New Student Enrollment Packet (forms will be available at registration); the student's state certified birth certificate; the student's social security card; a current Immunization Records (TEC §38.001 - a list of the 2015-2016 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students is available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>); a copy of the student's last report card and withdrawal form from the last school attended; a transcript for students in grades 9-11 (to help when

making educational placement decisions); and all seniors must have a transcript for enrollment and graduation requirement evaluation.

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015.

School supplies list for elementary and middle school grade levels are available on the district's website.

For registration requirements and additional information, visit the district's website at www.hempsteadisd.org or call 979-826-5500.

DPS Offers Tips to Avoid Auto Theft This Summer

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans that vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries tend to increase during the summer months – especially July and August – and is encouraging individuals to take necessary precautions to protect their vehicles from potential thefts.

"The summer months in Texas typically are one of the busiest times for vehicle thefts, and DPS is urging Texans to take preventative measures to

secure their vehicles and avoid possible thefts and burglaries," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Individuals can do their part to help ward off criminals this summer by always locking their cars and keeping valuables out of sight."

DPS offers the following tips that Texans can follow to help guard against vehicle theft:

- Never leave your car running unattended, even for a quick visit to a business or store.

- Never leave keys in the car or ignition, inside a locked garage, or in hide-a-key boxes.

- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is parked at your home.

- When possible, always park in high-traffic, well-lighted areas.

- Install an anti-theft device that locks the steering wheel, column or brakes, especially if your vehicle is considered to be at increased risk for theft.

- Never leave personal doc-

uments, vehicle ownership title or credit cards in your vehicle.

- Always keep valuables or property hidden out of sight or locked in the trunk.

If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police immediately. DPS also encourages individuals to keep a copy of their license plate and vehicle identification number on hand in case of theft, since police will need this information to take a report.

For more information about auto thefts and burglary, see <http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/consumer-protection/auto-theft-prevention>.

LETTER Continued from page 2A

will be lost.

How can the rest of the necessary money be raised? The same way money has been raised to hold off the landfill for the last four years through cash donations, garage sales and the "We Stand United" dinner/auction fundraiser. That's how!

Cash donations are always accepted—and are tax deductible. The next Garage Sale is slated for August, and the "We Stand United 3" dinner/auction will be Saturday evening, July 25 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in

Hempstead. It is the single largest CALH fundraiser. It is also a chance for area folks and businesses to support the anti-landfill fight in a big way...and knock an equally big hole in the expected cost of finishing the fight in Austin, not to mention having a good dinner and fun-filled evening.

To help with the fundraiser

by donating or by volunteering, contact us at StopHwy6Landfill@gmail.com or visit us online at www.stophwy6landfill.com.

Please help CALH finish its part of this fight. Together, we can run Pintail dump entirely out of our county.

Bob Gage
Hempstead, Texas

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AWARD Continued from page 1A

Masonic Lodge as well as the Hempstead High School administrators for selecting me as the 2015 recipient of this prestigious award."

Stubblefield has held many assignments as an educator including Spanish I teacher, DAEP officer, Sophomore Class Sponsor, and HISD bus driver. During her years in education, she is also an all around coach in athletics and has been head coach in track, basketball, cross country, volley-

ball, tennis and softball. She has coached a state champion in shot put, silver medalist in triple jump and 3rd & 4th place teams in the 4x100 meter relay. Stubblefield has been a cheerleading coach at HHS and HMS, Peer Assistance Leadership Students Sponsor (PALS), Cinco de Mayo Coordinator, and Black History Program Coordinator.

Her philosophy is that "All children can learn and will learn" under her direct supervision. "I will make a difference in the lives of every student in whom our administrators and parents have entrusted to me," she said. "My greatest gifts are compassion and giving back to my Alma Mater."

A native of Hempstead, Stubblefield is the proud parent

of LaInthia Hersha Stubblefield, MaBisha Renee Stubblefield, Herman Stubblefield, Jr. and Eunisa Wille Dare Ausby and has been blessed with four grandsons, Ondre Green, Jr., DreVonte Green, Herman H. Stubblefield III, and King Ricky Jingles.

The award is named after Mirabeau B. Lamar, who was the second president of the Republic of Texas and has been called "The Father of Public Education in Texas" for his leadership in establishing quality public education in Texas. Lamar was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, known then as it is today, for its strong support of excellence in the public schools. The Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal Program began in 1988.

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Bobcats Named to Baseball All-District

By LAURIE BETTIS
HISD Public Information

Congratulations to the Hempstead Bobcats who received All-District honors in

baseball from District 24-3A.

Four baseball players were selected to First Team All-District. Jacob Jackson as First Team Pitcher, Alexis Trujillo as

First Team Utility Player, Andrew Drew as First Team Outfielder, and Jordan Schulte as First Team Catcher.



Hempstead Bobcats who received All-District honors in baseball from District 24-3A are (l-r) Jacob Jackson, Alexis Trujillo, Andrew Duke, and Jordan Schulte. HISD Public Information.

Ladycats Named to Softball All-District

By LAURIE BETTIS
HISD Public Information

Congratulations to the Hempstead Ladycats who received All-District honors in

softball from District 24-3A.

Alex Schmidt was selected to First Team All-District Utility player while Honorable mention honors went to Madison

Vasquez.

Academic All-District honors went to Jessica Harvey and Alyssa Ramirez.



The Hempstead Ladycats who received All-District honors in softball from District 24-3A are (l-r) Jessica Harvey, Alyssa Ramirez, Alex Schmidt and Madison Vasquez. HISD Public Information.

ARNOLD Continued from page 2A

Herrod, Madeline Annie Lewis, Beau Dollins, Brian Glueck, Eric Mikeska, Ike Lee Riemer, Chandler Tate Crawford, Tyler Mitchell Roesner, Bernadette Marsh, Sharon Ryan, Joshua

Wood, Brya Rose Hegar, Dakota Rothen, Eleanor Starr, Jeanenne Loewe, Tammy Tesch Cortez, Julie Bankston, Harold Holiman, Juan Hernandez, Jr., Milton Helfrich, Jr., Grant (Buddy) Moen, Justin Powers, Marc Howard, Bob Pruitt, Linda Keaton, Geoff Evans, Kala Russell, John Flukinger, Allison Walton Jordan, Frank James Hudy, Bob James, and Jerry Ladig.

Anniversary greetings to Javier and Martha Silva, Chris and April Ogg, Sam and Sara Stalsby, and Chuck and Lisa Glueck.

We've missed seeing many of you - make that most of you - at the Waller City Council meetings lately. Don't be a stranger. Remember, we're spending your tax money, so come see how we're doing. We'll be meeting Monday night, July 20, at 7:00 at the Waller I.S.D. Board Room on Waller Street. Take an hour Monday night to come participate in your local government.

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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PENSACOLA Continued from page 4A

the crowd and was first taken in by the décor. One area of the restaurant where we sat--located inside away from the patio area--was decorated like the inside of an old wooden ship. It was very cozy and for a moment I felt as though I was in the office of the ship's captain, with dark wood on the ceilings and walls, books on bookshelves on the walls and nautical lights hanging above our table.

The menu was fantastic--there was something for everyone. I think it was probably the first time everyone in my entourage agreed that the food there was our favorite anywhere. We will definitely go back to Flounders on our next visit to the island.

Considered to be "Florida's First Beach," the Pensacola Bay Area is located in the northwest corner of Florida along the Gulf Coast and situated across the bay on the Santa Rosa Island, one of the world's longest barrier islands. Pensacola Beach has an old Florida feel with modern amenities from the casual to the upscale. Guests can enjoy natural beaches, great restaurants, first-rate fishing and historic Fort Pickens.

When staying at one of the few hotels right on the beach, one can see right across the street to the Boardwalk, a long strip of casual shops, boutiques and restaurants sitting right on the bay. Small, comfortable pizzarias and ice cream parlors, all the way up to elegant dining options, beckon from the boardwalk.

Just down the road a bit, but certainly within walking distance, is a small, casual café called "The Native Café." It is where locals and visitors alike make a bee-line for every morning. They serve up the absolute best breakfast as you will find anywhere, cooking your order perfectly every time. The waitresses are trendy, but casual, and work hard to make your dining memorable. Always with a smile and a nod to help, they make sure you are in and out to get started on your day. There is almost always a small wait but it moves very quickly. The Na-

tive Café also serves lunch, and oh, by the way, it is the cheapest place to eat in the Pensacola area. No need to waste money on breakfast comfort foods. Save your money for a more formal evening out at one of the upscale restaurants, like Flounders.

Another favorite is Hemingways, also right on the Boardwalk. They have a great view of the sound while you enjoy your gourmet meal and a glass of wine by candlelight. Although a bit more is expected from your wallet, it is also an experience you will want to grab while you're there. The food is tasty and you won't find a more elegant, Key West-style restaurant in town.

And if you are already a fan of Pensacola, you no doubt know about Peg Leg Petes. It is down the road a piece but is no less well-known. Good luck finding a parking space at lunch or dinner, so let the family out to get a spot in line while you park. They have a small gift shop to browse in while you wait so no worries. There is also a bar that can keep you busy if that's your thing.

As you wait, go around the back by the canal and wait there. You can sit and watch crabs in the water skirt about or you and the family can take a picture with Peg Leg Pete himself, who stands guard at the back entrance.

Once seated, try anything fried or grilled and you won't be disappointed. The waitresses are giggly and friendly but sometimes, a little annoying. The place is loud and upbeat but you have to try it at least once.

A vacation to Pensacola is not complete without the experience of a dramatic parasailing trip high above the bay. The kids do this every year, along with the jet skis, and it is their most memorable activity. Parents usually enjoy the food and shopping or the visit to the Blue Angels practices on Wednesday mornings or their trek to the top of

the Pensacola lighthouse. The drive to the lighthouse, which stands at the mouth of the gulf as it enters into the Santa Rosa sound, is about 30 minutes from the beach but well worth it. Wear tennis shoes or go barefoot, but no flip flops allowed. The awe-inspiring views from the catwalk are magnificent and worth the long hike to the top. As usual, it gets skinnier as you go up so be prepared.

Another favorite activity is scuba diving. With an active scuba diving population since the '60s, the area was the best-kept secret in the diving world until the 2006 sinking of the USS Oriskany -- the world's largest artificial reef. Divers can also explore many other wrecks, including the USS Massachusetts, one of the oldest existing American battleships, or the Antares, a 400-foot freighter which attracts moray eels, red snapper, grouper, cobia and amberjack. The sites present opportunity for spear fishing dives, underwater photography and even underwater weddings.

The Gulf of Mexico, bays and rivers converge for an angler's paradise. Offshore fishing is a popular excursion in the area, allowing fishermen to catch game fish such as grouper, tuna, cobia and red snapper. Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay and East Bay are home to flounder, speckled trout, redfish and mullet. The Escambia River boasts 85 recorded species of fish--the richest variety of any Florida river--including channel catfish and largemouth bass. Public fishing piers give everyone access to the waters without the hassle of a license. It also provides the perfect venue to catch the sunrises and



A view from the 6th floor of the Holiday Inn Beachfront in Pensacola, Florida. The brightly colored resort includes two swimming pools--one with a lazy river--a restaurant, and scheduled daily activities for the kids. There are numerous accommodation choices right on the beach and each offers spectacular views like this one. Florida beaches and waters are well-known for their blue-green color and clarity. Sea weed, like we experience on Texas beaches, rarely washes up on these beaches and if it does, it is quickly removed. Staff credit: Stephen Johnson, The Waller Times.

sunsets over the islands.

During the 2013 summer tourist season, nicely-appointed hotel rooms were a deal at under \$300 per night. For 2015, we found them in the mid-\$300's, a significant jump from previous years. While most of them include a beachfront view of the emerald-green waters that the

Florida Panhandle is known for, it is almost not worth the price. We will shop around for a beachfront cottage on our next visit, hoping to fare better with space and amenities, while not having to jockey for pool space or elevator space on our next trip there.

If a beach vacation is on your

radar this summer, consider Pensacola. It is only a 9-hour drive down Interstate 10 or a quick flight to Pensacola's airport. I found flights for \$218 one-way from either of Houston's airports. Either way, enjoy your time in Florida and bring back some of the sugar-white sand that Florida is known for.

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WALLER COUNTY LAND COMPANY



TIM PHELAN, BROKER: Associates: Melinda DeGroot, Rendy Elizalde, Roger Frey, Gary Friedel, Don Garrett, David Henke, Marie Herndon, Ann Kulhanek, Alicia Martinez, Ray Miller

2 Locations to Serve You Better!

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WALLER (936) 372-9181
HEMPSTEAD (979) 826-4133

"Sewing The Area For Over 30 Years"

ACREAGE

SMALL ACREAGE: Many tracts to choose fromCALL OR GO ONLINE.....FOR DETAILS
2 ACRES: Pine Lake Estates in Plantersville. Restricted. Nice homes. Waller ISD. Near Magnolia....PENDING \$22,000/ac.
3 ACRES: in Plantersville on dead-end road. Unrestricted. Peaceful setting.....PENDING..... \$18,266/ac.
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.....PENDING.....\$289,900
18 ACRES: Fenced, lightly restricted, Ag exempt. Easy access to Hwy. 6.....PENDING..... \$10,111/ac.
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\$10,750/ac.
40.9 ACRES: Near Hempstead. Unrestricted. More acreage available\$9,500/ac.
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.\$7,400/ac.
50 ACRES: 2 minutes south of Waller. Fenced, well, electricity, driveway w/gate & seasonal creek.....\$11,500/ac.
50.25 ACRES: Near Hempstead. Unrestricted. More acreage available\$9,500/ac.
63 ACRES: Field Store Rd. & US Hwy 290 - Excellent location for residential or commercial development. City water & sewer. Rapidly growing area. Ag exempt\$1.06/sq. ft.
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.
144 ACRES: Organic Farm. Rolling, unrestricted, 4 ponds, 3 barns & working pens. Fronts Cochran Road\$10,500/ac.



Roger Frey



Rendy Elizalde

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

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.
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.....PENDING.....\$2.00/sq. ft.
63 ACRES: Field Store Rd & US Hwy 290 - Excellent location for residential or commercial development. City water & sewer. Rapidly growing area. Ag exempt.....\$1.06/sq. ft.
450 ACRES: Excellent for residential or light industrial development in Katy. 1.5 miles north of I-10 & 15 miles from the energy corridor.....PENDING.....\$30,000/ac.
WALLER NURSERY: 12 unrestricted acres with well, irrigation & commercial greenhouses. Heated plant beds for year round growing. Everything needed to operate a business.....PENDING.....\$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
HEMPSTEAD: Investment opportunity - 8 houses on 8 lots. Must be sold together. All but 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

HOMES

FOR LEASE: 3-2.5-2 home in Mallard Crossing. Nice backyard & deck \$1,500/mo.
FOR LEASE: Hockley - spacious two story 3-2 Victorian in peaceful country setting. Wood floors, huge master & large deck overlooking pond. Refrigerator, washer & dryer included..... \$1,880/mo.
ANTIQUe HOME: Sits on 1.75 lots, corner location in Hempstead. This 2-1 home was built circa 1881 with high ceilings & fireplace. Fenced in back yard & 1-car carport. Just needs some TLC.....PENDING.....\$45,000
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...\$162,500
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
FAIRFIELD: Very attractive 3-2.5-2 two story on peaceful cul-de-sac lot. Updated open floor plan with game room & downstairs master suite. Tastefully landscaped with spacious deck. Convenient to all Cypress shopping & the Grand Pkwy....PENDING\$192,000
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 to Cypress shopping, restaurants & the Grand PkwyPENDING \$222,000
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!.....\$225,000

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.....PENDING \$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.....PENDING.....\$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, study & rock fireplace. 6-Stall barn, 3 pastures & loafing shed. Ag exempt & unrestricted. Low taxes.....\$1,300,000

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

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

Featured Listings



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Purchase Tickets from: Frazier's, Hempstead Theater, Repka's Hardware, Schwarz Hardware, Steinhauser's, Amsler & Assoc., Coldwell Banker Waller and Times-Tribune.

LIVE AUCTION SILENT AUCTION BUCKET RAFFLE

Amazing Auction Items Include: An assortment of guns including AR15's, sports memorabilia including JJ Watt autographed jersey, a Florida condo vacation package, a 2-seat Gator ATV, Z-245 Zero Turn lawnmower, an assortment of deep sea and bay fishing packages, coolers, cookers, handmade quilts, a baby T-Rex, a ZZ Top package.. PLUS MANY MORE ITEMS!!!

Donate items for the live or silent auction. Contact Bill Jordan at 713-724-3804 for more information.

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