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Scripture of the Week
PSALMS 37:11
 "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

THE WALLER TIMES



"Sewing Waller, Hempstead & Surrounding Communities"

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WallCo Sets Hearing on 2015 Proposed Tax Rate, Salaries

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 On Wednesday, August 19, the Waller County Commissioners court met in regular session at 9 a.m. in the Waller County Courthouse. County Judge Trey Duhon led the meeting, also attended by Commissioners Justin Beckendorff, Jeron Barnett, Russell Klecka, and John Amsler.
 Commissioner Barnett moved that the Waller County Commissioners Court propose to adopt a tax rate of \$.0654806 cents per \$100 valuation, the rate being a combination of rates for the Waller County General Fund at \$.062034436 per \$100 valuation and the Farm to Market Flood Control Rate of \$.034436. The proposed rate is down

slightly from 2014, due to the 12% to 13% increase in property valuations throughout the county, which will bring in more revenue. The motion passed unanimously.
 The proposed tax rate is the roll-back rate, composed of two components - a maintenance and operations rate and a debt service rate. M&O includes such things as salaries, utilities and day-to-day operations. Debt service covers the interest and principal on bonds and other debt secured by property tax revenues.
 Public hearings on the proposed 2015 tax rates are scheduled for September 9 and September 16 at 9 a.m. in the Waller County Courthouse. On September 23, a meeting to adopt the

proposed tax rate will take place.
 Salary increases for all county employees has been proposed and the scheduled hearings will also include the public input and discussion on salary proposals.
 Commissioners Amsler and Klecka made it clear that they are opposed to any salary increase, both speaking out against the proposal.
 Commissioner Amsler stated, "I don't think folks will appreciate us getting a raise when all their property taxes went up this year."
 Judge Duhon explained that the proposed salary increases were entirely due to the increased cost of the county's healthcare plan, due to the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

"The new healthcare plan is vastly more expensive than our current plan," stated Duhon. "Further discussion about this needs to take place at the upcoming hearings."
 In further action, the court accepted the signatures on a petition presented to the Waller Elections Office on July 20, 2015, and voted to officially record certification of the signatures.
 The petition involved placing on the November 3 ballot an option for county residents to legalize the sale of alcohol, including mixed drinks, throughout the county, pursuant to Texas Elections Code 3.006, 501.032, and 501.034. The court voted unanimously to place the option on the November 3 ballot.

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Council Eases Collection Policy; Upscale Apartments Coming

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 On Monday, August 17, the Waller City Council met in regular session at 7 p.m. at the Waller ISD Administration Building, located at 2214 Waller St., in Waller. Council members Edna Eaton, Nancy Arnold, Dwayne Hayek, Sidney Johnson, and Mike McCormick were present and Mayor Danny Marburger presided.
 In a first order of business, Public Works Superintendent Gene Schmidt was officially appointed to serve as the City of Waller's Emergency Management Coordinator, a position held by former Police Chief Phil Rehak.
 Council then unanimously passed Resolution #2015-11, amending "Exhibit B" of the City of Waller's Utility Policy, regarding collection procedures for delinquent accounts.
 In the original policy, which became effective on November 12, 2007, if bills were not paid by the 25th of the month (they are due on the 15th), a \$25

service charge was added to the bill and the resident was also subject to disconnection without further notice. However, in the newly adopted utility policy, instead of a service charge, a \$25 reconnect fee will be applied before services will be restored. Services are still subject to being disconnected with no further notice.
 Another change gives the citizen more time than the prior policy to pay their bill. In the 2007 policy, if the 25th fell on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the bill was due on the day before. The new policy states instead that the bill will be due the following business day.
 Also, since the Superintendent of Public Works is often out of the office, the City Secretary will now be the only official, along with the mayor, who may grant a waiver or exception from billed charges or service fees.
 According to City Secretary, Cynthia Ward, "I believe the new policy will be more fair to the citizens. It goes into effect on October 1."

Waller Economic Development received council's approval for the Development Agreement with Burckhardt Compression, which states that the WEDC will provide one-half the cost of utility extension or up to \$62,000. Burckhardt Compression has commenced construction on its new facility, located in Waller at 19750 FM 362, just south of Old Washington Rd.
 John Isom, the WEDC Director, was pleased to announce that TXDOT has provided its advanced funding agreement for Waller's Downtown Revitalization Project. According to Isom, the project will cost \$2 million, but due to state and federal grants, the city's capital outlay will only be \$96,000. Mayor Marburger requested a workshop on the Downtown Revitalization Project to take place in early September so that planning for the project can begin in earnest.
 A presentation was given by Ron Inscore of T.R. Inscore, LLC, a multi-family development company, head-

quartered in Cypress. He brings a wealth of experience in the field, having led development of over 8,000 units with a capital investment of over \$950,000,000.
 Inscore is currently developing an upscale multifamily apartment complex in Waller, just south of U.S. Hwy. 290 on 2920, called Waller Ranch Apartments. The project will include the construction of a clubhouse, fitness center, and pool. Units range in size from a studio, to a one, two, or three bedroom apartment.
 When asked by Council member Arnold about possible traffic problems due to the new complex, Inscore stated, "I see very few problems associated with traffic in these projects. The complex will have two entrances, which will alleviate any problems."
 Inscore said that construction of the apartment complex is slated to begin this November and is expected to take 10 months.

Inserts this week:
Arlan's Market

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After Months of Waiting, Blue Bell Ice Cream Returns

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY
The Waller Times
 After several months, Blue Bell Ice Cream has announced that it will begin its return to store shelves on August 31. Blue Bell will return to the market much as it began its original expansion, 108 years ago, starting in Brenham, Houston and Austin, plus parts of Alabama, home to the only Blue Bell Creamery plant currently making ice cream.
 Blue Bell, originally old in 23 states before the listeria outbreak, discovered in

January, was on the brink of bankruptcy before investor Sid Bass agreed to lend the company up to \$125 million. The ice cream is slated to return in five phases, the first starting with the Texas area of Houston and Austin, as well as Alabama. Other areas will return in a series of phases.
 There is no specific timetable for the next four phases of the brand's return, which will be entirely based on product availability and distribution.
 Arlan Ames, owner of Arlan's Market, has already checked to ensure his

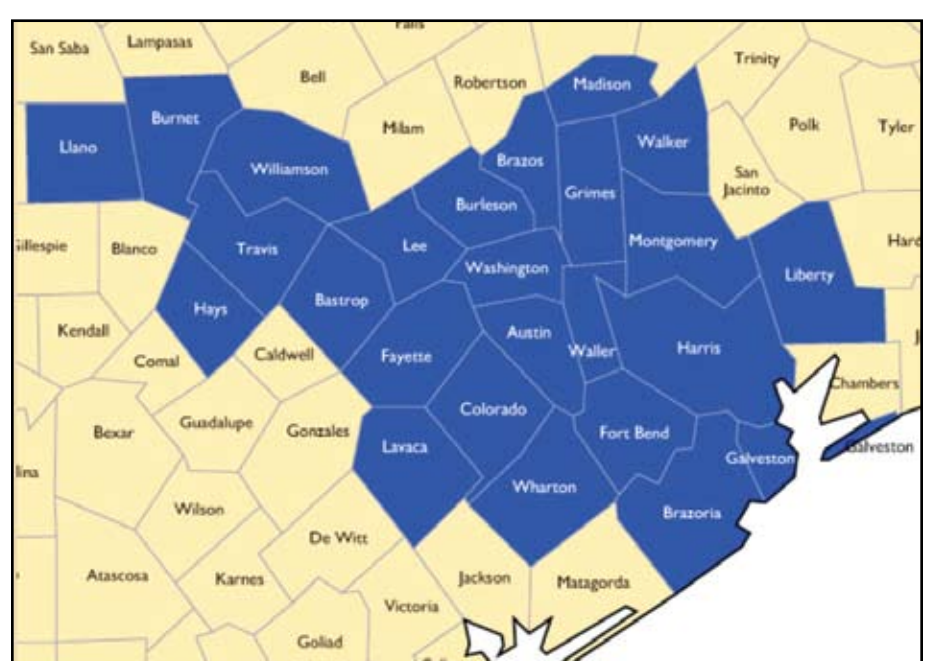
stores have space for the ice cream, and Arlan's, according to management, is ready for Blue Bell's return.
 Ricky Dickson, vice president of sales and marketing for Blue Bell, stated,

"Over the past several months we have been working to make our facilities even better, and to ensure that everything we produce is safe, wholesome and of the highest quality for you to enjoy."

Comptroller Distributes Monthly Sales Tax Revenue to Local Governments

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their August local sales tax allocations totaling \$760.2 million, which represents an increase of 7.6 percent compared to August 2014.
 Hegar also said recently that state sales tax revenue in July was \$2.4 billion, up 2.7 percent compared to July

2014.
 "July's modest growth in sales tax revenue is in line with the biennial revenue estimate issued in January," Hegar said. "Stronger growth in receipts from consumer driven sectors, including retail trade, restaurants and services offset declining receipts from oil and gas-related sectors."



It's coming back! Below is a map of the counties (including Waller) that are to receive Bluebell Ice Cream shipments on August 31. Internet rendering.

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Wednesday August 26 Clear H 93° L 66°	Thursday August 27 Clear H 95° L 68°	Friday August 28 Clear H 96° L 69°	Saturday August 29 Clear H 94° L 68°	Sunday August 30 Clear H 94° L 70°	Monday August 31 Clear H 92° L 71°	Tuesday September 1 Chance of a Thunderstorm H 92° L 71°
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Waller Wonders - No brag ... just fact!

By NANCY ARNOLD



have friends in high places, isn't it, even if only to wave at them!

Two facts about the HPD Helicopter Division: It was formed in 1970, and has always been based at Hobby Airport. And, this is the second largest municipal aircraft fleet in the United States, with Los Angeles holding the top spot by only one helicopter.

...

I was in a Houston grocery store parking lot one day when I observed a big, heavy-duty crew cab pickup roar down the aisle and wheel into a handicap space nearest the door. A wee slip of a girl leapt out (and I mean that literally; there was about a three-foot drop to the ground for her!), and she scampered across the parking lot and into the store.

As it happens, she and I came out of the store at about the same time, and she was in a hurry. She pulled her cart up to the back of the truck and unloaded her groceries onto the tailgate. Then, because it was almost shoulder-high to her, she hoisted herself up into the back of the truck and moved them, including several cases of beverages, into the interior of the bed.

Task completed, she



Sgt. Kurt Overby

jumped down from the truck, grabbed the cart, and raced to park it. She then scampered back to the truck, climbed up into the cab, took the handicap placard off the mirror, and roared away.

I came to the conclusion that maybe, just maybe, she wasn't physically impaired, and that (1) she either "borrowed" the placard, or (2) borrowed the truck that had a placard.

She probably didn't know this, but she could have been subject to a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or up to 50 hours of community service. That's the penalty for those who either illegally park in a handicap

space or misuse the placard. The violation can even include parking so as to block any van-accessible space.

I don't advocate getting into a confrontation with someone, like this young woman, who appears to be misusing a handicap placard. That can never end well. If it really bugs you, just call 911 and let them handle it.

However, before you do, make sure you are not calling out someone who IS eligible to use the placard. According to the Invisible Disabilities Association, there are some 26 million Americans who suffer from severe disabilities, while only about seven million (al-

most 25% of that number) require a cane, crutches, wheelchair, or walker.

What is an "invisible disability?" That can refer to symptoms such as such as debilitating pain, fatigue, dizziness, cognitive dysfunctions, brain injuries, learning differences and mental health disorders, as well as hearing and vision impairments. These are not always obvious to the onlooker, but can sometimes - or always - limit daily activities, and can range from mild challenges to severe limitations, and can vary from person to person.

So, a disability can't be determined solely on whether or not a person uses some kind of assistive equipment or device.

That takes me back to the athletic-looking young woman at the grocery store. I don't know what her limitations may or may not be. She may have chronic fatigue syndrome, which is very real and physically limiting. She may gotten home with her load of groceries and had to be helped into the house.

I guess what I'm suggesting is tolerance. We may, like I did, get a little huffy because this woman appeared to be tak-

ing advantage of a great parking place. But really, is it any of my business what she does? She isn't hurting me. I parked only two spaces beyond her, which presented no problem for my access to the store.

Had she taken the last available handicap space in that lot, I might have viewed the situation differently, but I still don't think confrontation is the answer. One of my co-workers is nearly 85-years-old, and this parking issue is one of his pet peeves. He will totter up to someone he suspects of parking without benefit of disability and offer to either help them or call someone to help them get into the building. When they protest, he very innocently notes that he just assumed they needed help because they parked in a handicap space.

The results are mixed. Some people sheepishly get back in their car and move to a regular space. Others toss their nose in the air, harrumph loudly, and stalk away. In any case, he feels vindicated. I don't advocate one way or the other. You can choose his method, or you can ignore the situation. What you will not - cannot -

See ARNOLD page 2B

I want to brag on one of our Waller sons for a minute. Kurt Overby, son of Leon and Martha Overby, and a Waller High grad, is a sergeant with the Houston Police Department Helicopter Division. That's a pretty significant reason to brag right there.

However, we have a couple more reasons to congratulate Sgt. Overby. One is that he scored a 98 on his private pilot exam; and two, he is now a Certified Helicopter Pilot (the capital letters are mine!). So next time you're in Houston traffic and see that familiar blue and white helicopter overhead, it just might be Sgt. Overby. It's always good to

Remembering the Berlin Wall, August 1961 - November 1989

By CARRIE PRAZAK-GOURLEY



half (Berlin is entirely in the Eastern half of Germany that came to be under Soviet rule), with the eastern half under the authority of the Soviet Union and the western part divided into zones occupied by the Americans, French, and British.

This division, separating the democracies of the West from the East, controlled by the communist Soviet Union, also came to be known as the "Iron Curtain". It symbolized efforts of the Soviet Union to block itself and its satellite countries in Eastern Europe from any contact with the democratic West.

The Iron Curtain ushered in the period known in world history as the Cold War, a state of military and political tension between the Western bloc (the United States and its NATO allies) and the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and its occupied territory in Eastern Europe). For Americans, the Cold War was a period of a tense



A photograph of Checkpoint Charlie, a point of entry into East Berlin. East Berliners were not allowed to leave. Internet photo.

standoff, highlighted by war drills at school, fallout shelters, and the vision of the infamous "red phone" that might ring at the White House in case of a nuclear attack.

It remained a "cold" war, which is a good thing for humanity because although both sides had a nuclear arms race, the weapons were never used. The conflict was more of an ideological one

between the philosophies of communism (government ownership of all business, medicine, and wiping away the existence of God) and democratic republics (private ownership, free enterprise, and individual freedoms).

Most symbolic of this conflict was the Berlin Wall, built seemingly overnight, beginning just past midnight on August 13, 1961, when trucks with soldiers and construction workers rumbled through East Berlin. While most Berliners were sleeping, soldiers tore up the streets entering into West Berlin, dug holes for concrete posts and strung barbed wire across the border between the east and west sides of the city. Telephone lines between east and west were also cut that night.

Berliners woke up to the shock that a once fluid border was now rigid. East Berliners were trapped and could no longer see family or friends in the West, or go to well-paying jobs, a situation that continued for decades.

The Soviets tried to cut off West Berlin entirely from the other Western democracies, but President Kennedy and our Allies initiated an airlift that Kennedy stated could be maintained ad infinitum, so Stalin eventually allowed goods and supplies to again flow to West Berlin.

The Berlin Wall actually stretched over 100 miles, completely surrounding the City of West Berlin. Barbed wire, by 1965, was replaced with concrete walls topped with barbed

wire. Later, an entire mechanism of barbed wire, minefields, and check points divided the entire Western Block from the East.

Why did the Soviets build the wall? Within a short period of time after the war, living conditions between the democratic West and communist East became distinctly different. The West, with its free markets, began to experience rapid economic growth. In contrast, East Germany, controlled by the Soviet Union and its "central planning", government-run enterprise, had a flagging, weak economy where individual freedoms were severely restricted.

Mass migration ensued, with East Germans and occupants of the Eastern European countries of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and others fleeing to the West in droves. By 1961, the Eastern Bloc had lost millions of citizens. In a reactionary mode, the Soviet Union's solution was a wall, armed guards, and barbed wire.

On a personal note, I would like to mention my old pastor Msgr. John Kukral, who fled Czechoslovakia after the war and came to Texas. He recounted his tale to me many years ago. After the war, the Russians, he said, were boarding up churches and arresting priests. It was a frightening time for his countrymen. Religion was to be suppressed, and holding services was deemed an unpatriotic, criminal activity. Many priests and religious people died, but by Divine Providence, he said he made it out by hiding at the bottom of a potato

See GOURLEY page 6A

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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 to 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.

NOTICE

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

ELECTION SEASON POLICY

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

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News Briefs

Rabbit Tag-In Scheduled for WCFA

Waller County Fair Association Rabbit Committee will hold its rabbit tag-in from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. inside the Barbra Carpenter Building on Sunday, August 30. Exhibitors must have all the items listed on the tag-in checklist, found in the rabbit rules that were handed out at the mandatory meeting. Items can also be printed from the fair website under Forms and Rules.

2015 Emergency Preparedness Fair Scheduled

An Emergency Preparedness Fair, that will include over 20 subjects including Alternative Cooking, Emergency Management, Water Harvesting, Water Purification, Food Preservation & Storage, 72-hour Kits, Gardening, Ham Radio Operation & Licensing, and much more, is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015. Residents are encouraged to be ready for any kind of unanticipated event that might disrupt the home or community. Citizens can learn how to become self-reliant and to prepare for times of adversity, whether a community disaster or personal struggle such as loss of employment. The event is slated from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 2324 Waller Mayer Road, in Waller (west of Holloman Elementary School). For more information, email organizers at jolyne@gmail.com.

Gamma Omega Chapter Holds Planning Meeting

The Gamma Omega Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International held their summer planning meeting June 30, 2015 in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg, Texas with 21

members present.

President Trudy Holland led the meeting which followed lunch prepared by the Lee County members. Pledges were led by Jennifer Mohr, and the Collect and Mission Statement

were led by Denise Brademan.

The April 18, 2015 minutes and the State Convention report were tabled until the August 8 regular meeting. Committees met to share and plan chapter meetings for the 2015-

2016 year.

Following the work session, reports were given by First Vice-President, Jessie Kokemor, for the Program of Work/Educational Excellence Committee, Shelley Nies for the Membership Committee, and Evelyn Turlington for the Finance Committee.

The first chapter meeting for the 2015-2016 year is scheduled for August 8 in the Fellowship Hall of St Paul Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bellville members will serve as hostesses, and brunch will be served.

The door prize, donated by Trudy Holland, was won by Linda Pinkerton. Following adjournment, the members sang the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Members attending from Hempstead were Annette Balke and Linda Braun. Attending from Waller was Evelyn Turlington.



The Waller ISD School Nutrition Services was recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture for outstanding participation in the 2015 Breakfast Week Local Products Challenge. Waller ISD participated in the annual School Breakfast Week throughout the week of March 2 in order to be eligible for the award. The goal of the program was to encourage Texas contracting entities to serve menu items made from local vendors' products throughout School Breakfast Week. Waller ISD was one of only 40 school districts in Texas that earned either the USDA Healthier U.S. School Challenge Award or the 2015 School Breakfast Week Local Products Challenge Platinum Pear Award. Waller ISD was recognized for incorporating a weekly average of three or more local menu items, and used local vendors such as Scarmardo Produce, Borden's and Kurz Bread Company. Pictured is Waller ISD School Nutrition Services Assistant Director Molly Warzon accepting the Platinum Pear Award at the 2015 Texas Association of School Nutrition Conference in Grapevine. *WISD Public Information.*

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Texas Job Growth Continues With 31,400 Jobs Added in July

Texas added jobs for the fourth consecutive month with the addition of 31,400 seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs in July. The state has added jobs in 57 of the last 58 months.

"Texas employers added 31,400 jobs in July, resulting in an increase of 260,500 positions over the year," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "The steady growth in jobs demonstrates the strength and diversity of the Texas economy."

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent in July, the lowest monthly unemployment rate since July 2007. The state has posted a 4.2 percent unemployment rate in four of the first seven months of 2015. Texas' unemployment rate continues to trend well below the national rate of 5.3 percent and is down from 5.0 percent a year ago.

"A declining unemployment rate is great news for our state," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Texas workers are among the most talented and skilled in the world and we continue to seek and implement strategies to connect our skilled workers to good-paying jobs in all regions of our state."

Employers in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities industry expanded their payrolls by 13,300 jobs in July, contributing to a 3.0 percent annual growth rate for this industry. The Leisure and Hospitality industry added jobs for the 49th consecutive month, with 5,300 positions added, and the Construction industry picked up 2,200 jobs in July.

"Over the month, private employers added more than 20,000 jobs, strengthening the Texas labor market," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. "TWC and the network of Workforce Solutions business service specialists partner with employers in Texas to help ensure that their workforce remains competitive in the global marketplace. I urge employers who have specific skills needs to utilize TWC training funds by working with their local community colleges to apply for a Skills Development Fund grant."

The lowest rate of unemployment for a Texas Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) belonged to the Midland MSA in July with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 3.3 percent, followed by the Amarillo MSA with a 3.4 percent rate and the Austin-Round Rock MSA with a rate of 3.5 percent.

Read The Waller Times online at www.TheWallerTimes.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Waller Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:00 PM, September 14, 2015 in Waller ISD Board Room, 2214 Waller St., Waller, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The school district has elected to adopt a tax rate before receiving the certified appraisal roll from the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) and before adopting a budget. In accordance with Texas Tax Code, Section 26.05(g), the chief appraiser(s) of the appraisal district(s) in which the school district participates has (have) certified to the assessor for the school district an estimate of the taxable value of property in the school district as provided by the Texas Tax Code, Section 26.01(e). In accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 44.004(j), following adoption of the tax rate, the school district will publish notice and hold another public meeting before the school district adopts a budget.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040000/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.400000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year*
Total appraised value** of all property	\$3,311,056,669	\$3,587,170,080
Total appraised value** of new property***	\$75,506,064	\$127,344,687
Total taxable value**** of all property	\$2,142,894,469	\$2,226,650,262
Total taxable value**** of new property***	\$69,560,329	\$123,896,317

* All values identified are based on estimate(s) of taxable value received pursuant to Section 26.01(e), Tax Code.
** Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
*** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
**** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$72,730,000
*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.040000	\$0.400000*	\$1.440000	\$4,675	\$4,098
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.041040	\$0.398190*	\$1.439230	\$4,565	\$4,292
Proposed Rate	\$1.040000	\$0.400000*	\$1.440000	\$4,667	\$4,285

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$134,850	\$140,048
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$119,850	\$115,048
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100	\$1.440000	\$1.440000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,725.84	\$1,656.69
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-69.15

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.453299. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.453299.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$12,370,989
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$4,599,522

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Comptroller Returns Qtr. Billion to Rightful Owners

The Texas Comptroller returned a record \$248 million in unclaimed property to rightful owners this fiscal year, Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced recently.

The record breaks the mark of \$205 million in unclaimed property returns in fiscal 2014.

"This achievement shows our commitment to reuniting more unclaimed property with more rightful owners than ever before," Hegar said. "Our hardworking staff returned nearly a quarter of a billion dollars back to Texans all over our great state, and I want to encourage all Texans out there

to visit ClaimItTexas.org to see if the state is holding some of their unclaimed property."

The Comptroller's office has returned more than \$2 billion to rightful owners since Texas' unclaimed property program began in 1962.

In fiscal 2015, claims were paid as far north as Amarillo

and as far south as Brownsville; as far east as Nacogdoches and as far west as El Paso. Fiscal 2015 began September 1, 2014, and ends August 31.

The \$248 million in unclaimed property for fiscal 2015 includes forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, payroll checks, cashier's checks, dividends,

mineral royalties, dormant bank accounts and abandoned safe deposit box contents. Businesses turn property over to the unclaimed property program after it has been dormant from one to five years, generally.

There is no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state is holding, which

means there is no time limit for owners to file a claim – they can do so at any time.

For more information about the unclaimed property program, or to search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller's unclaimed property website at ClaimItTexas.org or call 1-800-654-FIND (3463).



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TxDOT Fights to Curb Summer Drunk Driving Deaths

As summer celebrations enter their final weeks, the Texas Department of Transportation is taking its "DWI Not So Fun House" to community events across the state as part of its "Drink, Drive, Go to Jail" campaign. The vintage-style interactive carnival trailer allows the public to experience the dangerous and potentially deadly effects of impaired driving.

"Don't turn your summer fun into a life-changing tragedy by being irresponsible when it comes to drinking and driving," said TxDOT Deputy Executive Director John Barton. "A safe and sober ride should be at the top of your list when making plans with family and friends. If not, you run the serious risk

of being pulled over by law enforcement, being killed or killing someone else. It's just not worth it."

The "DWI Not So Fun House" allows visitors to see and experience the simulated effects of alcohol on motor skills and driving. Participants wear vision-blurring "drunk goggles" and try to complete simple, eye-hand coordination tasks while being "impaired." The slowed reaction times and distorted perception are designed to remind Texans about the deadly risks of drinking and driving, and encourage them to always plan for a sober ride.

Last summer in Texas, 336 people were killed and 680 were seriously injured in alcohol-re-

lated crashes. Texas drivers convicted of DWI face up to \$17,000 in costs, possible jail time, limited career prospects and loss of driver license. In an effort to curb impaired driving, TxDOT's "Drink, Drive, Go to Jail" campaign is supported by increased law enforcement efforts between August 21 and September 7.

TxDOT strongly encourages everyone to plan for a sober ride before going out. Visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking and driving, such as:

- Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on your smartphone.
- Using mass transit.
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home.
- Staying put.

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Waller HS Student Places at National Junior Olympics

WISD Public Information

Aiden Vennard, a junior at Waller High School, competed at the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics in Jacksonville, Florida July 26-August 2. Vennard won the National Championship in 2015-2016 boys javelin with a personal best throw of 55.71 meters. He also placed seventh

in the 2015-2016 boys shot put with another personal best throw of 14.31 meters.

Aiden qualified for the Junior Olympics by competing first at the Gulf Association meet at Barnett Stadium in Houston June 19-20 and advancing to the Region 12 meet at McMurray University in Abilene July 8-10. At Re-

gion 12, he placed first in all four throwing events: shot put, discus, hammer and javelin. At the Region 12 meet, he set meet record in 2015-2016 boys hammer with a throw of 39.06 meters. Aiden is a member of the Northwest Flyers track club and the Waller Track and Field team.

...



Waller High School junior Aiden Vennard competed at the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics winning the National Championship in boys javelin and placing seventh in boys shot put. WISD Public Information.

Jauregui Graduates Basic Training

Army National Guard Pfc. Justin D. Jauregui has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical

fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesies,

military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Jauregui is the son of Robert Jauregui of Hempstead, Texas.

He is a 2003 graduate of Gulfport High School, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Gamma Omega Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Holds August Meeting

The Gamma Omega Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at 9:30 a.m. on August 8, 2015 in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Phillipsburg, Texas with fifty-eight members in attendance. New member, Mary Wilhelm, was reinstated from Alpha Delta in Paris, Texas.

Melanie Stein read the Mission Statement and the pledges were led by Earnestine Seals. Kathleen Lackey led the members in reciting the Collect. The meditation was given by Carole Fry and a prayer was said by Karen White.

Bellville members presented the program, Getting It All Together for a Brighter School Year. Cheryl Pritchett led members in singing "Zip-a-dee-dah - First Day of School." Lori Jackson led members in making New Teacher Survival Kits for new teachers in the counties represented in our Gamma

Omega Chapter.

President Trudy Holland presided over the business meeting. She thanked the Bellville members for serving as hostesses and for providing a delicious brunch. Minutes from the April meeting, the April Executive Board meeting, and the Summer Planning meeting were approved as printed by Recording Secretary Jeanell Dallmeyer. Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Pritchett, read several thank you notes. Linda Pinkerton gave the Treasurer's report, which was approved. Members were reminded to pay their chapter dues by the next meeting, October 3, 2015, to become eligible for a surprise gift drawing donated by Janet Allphin.

Committee reports included an overview of this year's programs and projects presented by First Vice-President Jessie Kokemor and an audit report presented by Evelyn Turlington, Chair of the Finance Commit-

tee. Lou Pruet, Chair of the Legislation Committee, encouraged members to become knowledgeable about the candidates for the upcoming presidential election and expressed the importance of joining TRTA to keep up with the latest legislation concerning teachers.

Membership Chair, Shelley Nies, gave the procedures for recruiting new members. Orientation for new members is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at the Cannery in Brenham, Texas. Gail Schroeder of the Yearbook Committee announced that updated yearbook information should be available by the upcoming October 3 meeting.

Holland reported that 18 Gamma Omega members attended the State Convention held in San Antonio June 25-27. Among the many honors received by the chapter were: Annie Award for Outstanding Programs, PACE Award, Ex-

emplary Yearbook Award, Five Star Newsletter Award, Early Bird Yearbook Award, Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund Contribution Recognition, and Certified Chapter Website Recognition. The 2016 convention will be held in Frisco, Texas.

Members voted to change the silent auction from the March program to the December program for 2016-2017 and a decision regarding rearranging county/towns for programs was tabled until the October 3 meeting. Jeanell Dallmeyer spoke of the destruction in Van, Texas where their elementary school was destroyed by a severe storm in May. She thanked Gamma Omega members for their generous donations given to Van Elementary School to help them in their time of need.

Any members interested in attending the STAR retreat

need to get their applications in by February. The next meeting will be October 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's, Phillipsburg. Members are asked to bring a canned good and a Bible which includes the Old Testament. Sealy members will serve as hostesses. Trudy Holland won the door prize donated by Carolyn Golan and Mary Ann Novas-

ad won the perfect attendance

prize donated by Sharon Spiess. Following adjournment, members formed a circle and sang The Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Attending from Hempstead were Linda Braun and Gail Schroeder. Attending from Waller were Melanie Crowhurst, Carol Eplen, Joyce Galloway, Merylyn Godwin, Kristen Robinson, Eunice Sitton, Evelyn Turlington, and Mary Ann Wiesner.



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Notice of Public Hearing on Waller County Appraisal District Budget

The Waller County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2016 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on September 8, 2015 at the Waller County Appraisal District, located at 900 13th Street Hempstead, Texas 77445. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget. **\$1,559,077.00**

The total amount of increase over the current year's budget. **\$92,414.00**

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget. **16**

The number of employees compensated under the current budget. **15**

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office located at 900 13th Street Hempstead, Texas 77445.

The phone number of the Waller County Appraisal District is: 979-921-0060. The address is: 900 13th Street Hempstead, Texas 77445.

2015 Property Tax Rates in City of Waller

This notice concerns the 2015 property tax rates for City of Waller. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$631,590
Last year's debt taxes	\$318,538
Last year's total taxes	\$950,128
Last year's tax base	\$176,965,543
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.5369/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes	\$949,137
(after subtracting taxes on lost property)	
÷ This year's adjusted tax base	\$182,115,147
(after subtracting value of new property)	
=This year's effective tax rate	\$0.5211/\$100
(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	
This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes	\$1,093,084
(after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	
÷ This year's adjusted tax base	\$182,115,147
=This year's effective operating rate	\$0.6002/\$100
x 1.08=this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.6482/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.1601/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.8083/\$100
-Sales tax adjustment rate	\$0.2410/\$100
=Rollback tax rate	\$0.5673/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If City of Waller adopts a 2015 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.5211 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2014 taxes by \$49,302.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
General Fund	1,863,334
Debt Service	203,782

Schedule B - 2015 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Certificates of Obligation Series 2012	85,000	63,225	0	148,225
Certificates of Obligation, Refunding Bonds, Series 2014	140,000	18,990	0	158,990
Total required for 2015 debt service				\$307,215
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2015				\$307,215
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2015				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$307,215

Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$462,151 in additional sales and use tax revenues.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 1918 Key St., Waller, TX 77484.

Name of person preparing this notice: L. M. Marcus
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector
Date Prepared: 08/24/2015

Waller FFA Attends the Summer 2015 Texas FFA Convention

WISD Public Information

Fourteen members of the Waller FFA Chapter traveled to Corpus Christi to engage in one of the largest youth ac-

tivities that takes place across the state each year. The annual Texas FFA Convention prides itself on being one of the largest student-led conventions in

Texas, with attendance exceeding 10,000 members each year.

This year Corpus Christi played host to the convention and set another record for member attendance. The Waller FFA Chapter had many recognitions and successes while at this year's convention.

On Monday, July 13 at the San Patricio County Fairgrounds in Sinton, four Waller FFA Members - Sydney Golbow, Tanner Iselt, Maggie Denena and Kassie Kersh - competed in the Texas FFA Rodeo. The students competed in Calf Roping, Team Roping, Breakaway, and Barrels.

After all the dust was settled and the competition was over, the Waller FFA Rodeo Team placed fifth in the overall

See FFA page 5B



Waller High School FFA Members came home from the summer Texas FFA Convention with numerous awards. Pictured is (top row, l-r) Kayla Mundy, Emily Bruner, Tristan Lampkin, Justin Pershall, Sydney Golbow, and (bottom row, l-r) Jordan Laughlin, Megan Landin, Maggie Denena, Reagan Caldwell, Kelci Chambers and Kimberlee Davis. WISD Public Information.

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GOURLEY Continued from page 2A

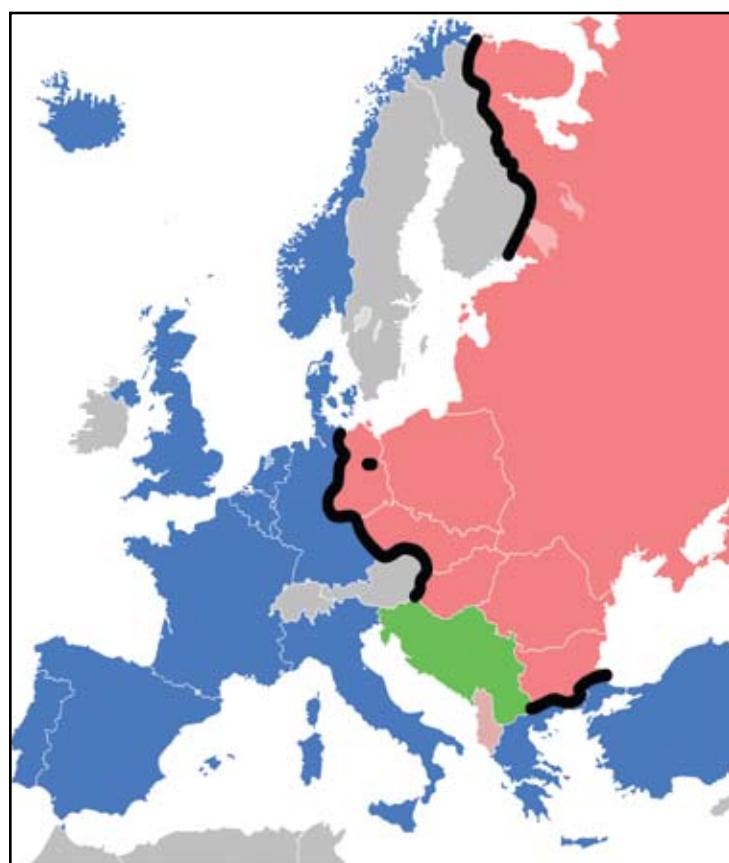
truck, and then boarded a boat from France bound for Galveston, knowing he had some relatives in Texas. He served as our pastor at Holy Cross Church in East Bernard for years and his stories about what happened to his country after the war made me appreciate even more being an American. We little remember today that in Eastern Europe, Christianity was suppressed after the war, and that nuns, priests, and religious people that were unable to escape were tried and imprisoned for decades, some even executed.

In 1983, while visiting Germany and Austria, I had the opportunity to cross Checkpoint Charlie (name given by Western Allies to the best known crossing between East and West Berlin) into East Berlin. We boarded a plain bus, similar to an American school bus, but painted olive green, and were told after boarding by a grim-looking female

guide that no pictures were to be taken and if we violated that rule our cameras would be confiscated (or worse).

Sadly, there was nothing to take a picture of anyway, except for historical interest. I cannot begin to explain the feeling of entering East Berlin. Unlike West Berlin, where beautiful buildings and parks abounded, the East was stark, dull, and gray, as if the ominous fist of Soviet totalitarianism loomed overhead. Few cars travelled the streets, and even the pedestrians were a drab, sad lot. The atmosphere was joyless, leaving a pit in my stomach. A profound relief came over me and my fellow passengers as we passed back through guard rails, watchtowers, and armed gunmen to cross back into West Berlin. Not a dry eye was on that bus when in unison we clapped and cheered upon our

See GOURLEY page 3B



This map depicts the division between NATO democracies, depicted in blue, and the Eastern Bloc (Warsaw Pact) under the authority of the old Soviet Union in red. The black line represents where a barbed wire fence, guards, and minefields were located. Gray or green countries like Switzerland and Ireland remained neutral. The black dot is today Berlin, then divided into Western Bloc and Eastern Bloc sections. Internet map.

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT will conduct public hearings on September 9, 2015 and September 16, 2015 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of WALLER COUNTY from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 7.81 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.686944 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$21,443,012.

The total revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.654806 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$22,429,196.

The total revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.654806 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$23,118,357.

The Commissioners' Court of WALLER COUNTY is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on **September 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at its meeting place at the Waller County Courthouse, Hempstead, Texas 77445.

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Waller ISD Board Meets at July Meeting

WISD Public Information

During the regular called meeting of the Waller ISD Board of Trustees held on July 13, the Board announced the new principal for I.T. Holleman Elementary will be Michael Skinner. Skinner has several years of experience in Texas education, including several years of principal experience.

The Consent Agenda consisted of resignations, employment, leaves of absence, staff transfers, disbursements, budget change requests, tax refunds and reports, staffing requests, janitorial supplies and equipment, school bus and automotive parts and the renewal of student insurance were considered. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

In Regular Agenda, Assis-

tant Superintendent of Finance Mike Marcus asked the board to consider August 27 for the 2015-2016 budget approval, and September 14 to adopt the 2015-2016 tax rate was discussed. The TASB Official Delegate Designation was submitted to the board for consideration and Michael Prince was elected as the delegate. Kim Parmer was chosen as the alternate. The TASB Endorsement for Region 4C Board of Directors was on the agenda to endorse Bennie May. In addition, a resolution expressing the intent to finance the expenditures related to adding crushed concrete to expand the Waller ISD Stadium parking lot was discussed. The regular agenda was approved.

In Information Items, Superintendent Danny Twar-



New principal Michael Skinner will start out the new school year as new principal at I.T. Holleman Elementary School. Former principal Stephanie Fletcher will serve as principal of W.C. Schultz Junior High School. WISD Public Information.

dowski provided an update of the Citizens' Planning Commit-

tee and Mike Marcus presented and overview of the 2015-2016 preliminary budget preparations. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kelly Baehren and Coordinator of Secondary and Elementary Social Studies Kim Seiley presented Community and Student Engagement Evaluations of the Waller ISD campuses.



The Texas Education Agency recently selected more than 400 Title I reward high-performing or high-progress schools for the 2014-2015 school year. Amongst the schools, Roberts Road Elementary was selected for both honors. A high-performing reward school is awarded to Title I schools with distinctions based on reading and math performance and graduation rates at the high school level. A high-progress school is defined as a Title I school in the top 25% in annual improvement and/or those schools in the top 25% of those demonstrating ability to close performance gaps. The reward school program was implemented in order to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity and improve the quality of instruction. Roberts Road Elementary is clearly exceeding expectations and Waller ISD is proud of this and all of our elementary schools for their efforts in educating the young minds of the District. Submitted photo.

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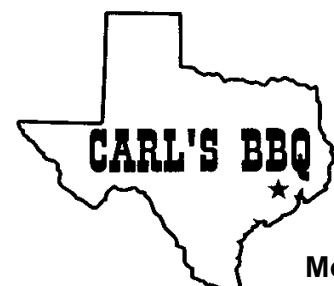
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Texas A&M: Gulf of Mexico Bombs a Serious Threat

Recent reports of unexploded bombs and other military ordnance washing up on the Florida coast bring awareness that material dumped de-

acades ago in the Gulf of Mexico could pose serious threats, say Texas A&M University oceanographers.

Niall Slowey, along with

professor emeritus William Bryant, who have more than 90 years of combined research experience, say millions of pounds of bombs and other types of ordnance are scattered over the Gulf of Mexico and also off the coasts of at least 16 states, from New Jersey to Hawaii. The bombs can get caught in fishermen's nets as they trawl along the ocean seafloor, or wash up on shore such as last week near the Tampa area.

The military began a massive dumping of unused bombs into the Gulf and other sites that started in 1946 and continued until 1970, when it was finally banned.

"Up until the 1960s, people thought the seafloor was beyond the reach of human activity," explains Slowey.

"They could not imagine the types of activities that are commonplace today. As more and more of these bombs and other ordnance are discovered, it has to be assumed that they are still dangerous until proven otherwise."

Millions of pounds -- no one, including the military, knows how many -- were sent to the ocean floor as numerous bases tried to lessen the amount of ordnance at their respective locations. The bombs included land mines standard military bombs, and also several types of chemical weapons. It is likely that some of the chemicals are leaking due to 60 to 70 years of exposure on the ocean floor, and this could pose a serious environmental threat, the researchers say.

"When exposed to air, some of these chemicals can be gaseous and can cause burns and nerve damage, and these types of cases have been reported in the Baltic Sea area where some of the most massive dumping occurred," Slowey adds.

There have been numerous reports of fatalities caused by such bombs, such as in 2005 when three Dutch fishermen were killed when they accidentally snared a World War II bomb in their nets.

As for the Gulf of Mexico,

Slowey notes that "the seafloor off the Texas-Louisiana coast is among the most active in the world, with constant activity related to energy production. It is exactly in this region where many of the munitions were dumped. As time passes, more and more people are working on the seafloor and the chance of encounter with these bombs and other ordnance is becoming greater."

With the ship traffic needed to support the 4,000 energy rigs, along with commercial fishing, cruise lines and other activities, the Gulf can be a sort of marine interstate highway system of its own. There are an estimated 30,000 workers on the oil and gas rigs at any given moment.

Bombs used in the military in the 1940s through the 1970s ranged from 250- to 500- and even 1,000-pound explosives, some of them the size of refrigerators. The military has a term for such unused bombs: UXO, or unexploded ordnance.

One huge problem is that

record keeping of the military dump sites is incomplete and sketchy at best. It's also believed that many of the munitions were "short dumped," meaning they were discarded outside designated dumping areas by private contractors hired at the time.

"The real mystery is that no one knows what is down there, or where all of it is," Slowey notes.

"Although most of these bombs do not have triggers in them, some types of ordnance, such as torpedoes and mines, can become more unstable over time, so their case the chance of an accidental explosion is increasing.

"Because chemical weapons potentially pose environmental contamination risks, and because explosive material in many of the standard bombs and other ordnance may still be viable, we need to determine exactly where they are and then have a plan for removing them or at least monitoring their condition," Slowey says.

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ARNOLD Continued from page 2A

do is change human nature.

...

Happy birthday to Brit Walker, Caitlin Hart, Scotty Scott III, Gene Alexander, Emily Quast, Oscar H. Oliver, Jr., Chaz Bundick Parker, Seth Cook, Brianna Buford, Christina Buzek, Christy Smith, James Linseisen, Jennifer Schroeder, Marcie Webb, Cody Ray Glueck, Ricky Mellman, Kevin Parker, Don Fritzsching, Virginia Schild, and Scott Edmonds.

Remembering Mr. Fortis Fitting. He didn't quite make it to his earthly 96th birthday

on August 26, but I'll bet he's enjoying his favorite flavors of ice cream in Heaven.

Unless someone else steps up, all of our anniversary greetings for the coming week go to Richard and Judy Connor.

...

Fabulous Back-to-School celebration and Community

Pep Rally at the Waller High School stadium Thursday night. Even if you weren't there to experience it first-hand, you couldn't miss the fireworks show at the end. Wow! I never get tired of seeing great fireworks, and this one definitely got a blue ribbon from me!

Remember to be careful

when you're out and about now, 'cause students, parents, and school buses are all sharing the roads, and it takes a little getting used to.

Until next week ...

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

NOTICE OF 2015 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR WALLER COUNTY

A tax rate of \$0.654806 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of Waller County. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.654806 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$0.686944 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$0.607653 per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE	\$0.654806 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Waller County from the same properties in both the 2014 tax year and the 2015 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that Waller County may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES
CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount = (rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

ELLEN CONTRERAS SHELburnE
Waller County tax assessor-collector
730 NINTH ST. HEMPSTEAD TX 77445
979-826-7620
e.shelburne-tac@wallercounty.us
wallercountytaxoffice.com

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: September 9, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE 836 AUSTIN ST. HEMPSTEAD, TX 77445.

Second Hearing: September 16, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE 836 AUSTIN ST. HEMPSTEAD, TX 77445.



On Sunday, June 28, the Waller County 4-H Horse Club's Horse Judging team participated in the Paint/Appaloosa Youth World Show Judging Contest in Fort Worth, Texas. The junior team placed 4th in team performance and 5th overall receiving both awards from the president of the APHA. The senior team, who was paired with members from Shelby County 4-H, placed 16th overall. Madyson Guidry won an individual award for placing 10th overall as an individual junior. Shown are (l-r) Savannah Malone, Erin Stokes, Sierra Malone, Darren Stokes, Madyson Guidry, Alyssa Moellers, and Ethan Jorn. Submitted photo.

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GOURLEY Continued from page 6A

arrival in the West. We were free again, and now knew more clearly than ever how precious our freedom is, and how we too often take it for granted.

The wall, of course, did not completely stop migration. Historians estimate that between 5,000 to 10,000 East Berliners safely escaped to the West—many by tunnels dug from East German basements. Many more died, all along the Iron Curtain, attempting to escape Soviet oppression to the freedom of Western democracies.

In 1963, 22 months after the construction of the wall, President John F. Kennedy made his famous speech in West Berlin, saying, "Ich bin ein Berliner." (I am a Berliner.) His message made a clear statement to the Soviets on the steadfast policy of the United States to support West Berliners as long as necessary.

Later, in 1987, on the 750th anniversary of Berlin, President Ronald Reagan challenged Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party with these famous words, "We welcome change and openness; for we believe freedom and security go together, that the

advance of human liberty would only strengthen world peace... If you seek liberalization, come here to this gate Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate Mr. Gorbachev. Tear down this wall."

A year later in July of 1988, Gorbachev allowed a Bruce Springsteen concert in East Berlin, attended by nearly half a million East Berliners. The concert inspired the youth of East Germany to seek freedom. According to historians, the concert was the nail in the coffin for East Germany, a gig that inflamed a spirit of rebellion that contributed to the fall of the wall 16 months later.

Springsteen's four-hour concert, along with a passionate speech, delivered in German, carried a subtle but clear political message. As he launched into Bob Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom", the crowd roared, even waving homemade American flags. The youth had a taste of freedom, and they were united in their quest to be free.

The fall of the Berlin Wall happened nearly as suddenly as its rise. Communism began to falter in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and in 1989 new exodus points were opened for East Ger-

mans wanting to flee to the West.

Then suddenly it happened—one of the most historic nights in human history. On the evening of November 9, 1989, an announcement was made by the East German government that individuals may permanently relocate through border checkpoints to the West.

People were in absolute shock. Was it real? Was the border really open at last? Upon approaching the wall, East Germans found guards were letting them through. Very quickly, the Berlin Wall was inundated with people from both sides. People began chipping at the wall with hammers and chisels. There ensued a joyous celebration unlike the world has ever known, televised worldwide, with people hugging, kissing, cheering, and crying.

Free at last. The fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the beginning of the end of Soviet control over Eastern Europe, and soon the demise of the Soviet Union itself. On October 9, 1990, East and West Germany reunited into a single Germany. It took nearly 50 years for the Iron Curtain to fall, but it was doomed from the outset. Repression can never create a sound country; that only comes

with the God given right of liberty. After decades of totalitarianism, God won. The prayers of the faithful for the freedom of Eastern Europe proved fruitful, and the Godless realm of the Soviet Union, producing more alcoholics and depressives than any nation in history, fell into the dust of time.

As a nation, we must never forget that the freedom our nation stands for means so much to so many who still don't possess it.

"May the light of freedom coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly—until at last the darkness is no more." --President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Author's Note: If you are interested in hearing Bruce Springsteen play "Chimes of Freedom" (or an assortment of other songs) to young East Berliners in 1988, go to YouTube and type Bruce Springsteen, East Berlin, 1988 and a selection will appear. Remember that in East Germany (as well as the whole Eastern Block) there had never been a Western concert allowed, so this was the first time for them to hear such a concert in person. The young people were of course familiar with Western music because of

Radio Free Europe and the inability of the government to stop the airwaves. The concert is an amazing site to see.

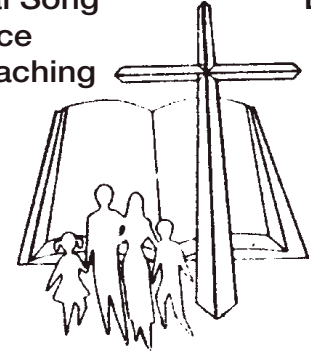
Contact Carrie at gidget2114@gmail.com for any questions or comments on her columns.

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LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

On September 1, 2015, Waller County begins its Thirtieth year implementing their responsibility under the Texas Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act. This Act defines who is indigent, assigns the responsibility for the indigent health care, and identifies medical services that eligible people may receive.

Waller County's compliance with the Act is through County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHC), outlined in the CIHC handbook established by the Texas Department of Health as administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG). The County establishes the limits within the program for the BVCOG to administrate.

Briefly, the rules for the Program are:

- Applicants must be a resident of the county in which they make application, with intent to stay.
- Application forms must be completely filled out (some assistance is provided).
- Applicants must furnish information required for verification and documentation of residency, income, resources and size of family.
- Applicant's net income cannot exceed approximately 21% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Other factors may apply, such as size of household.
- Applicant's assets (resources) for a family of one cannot exceed \$2000 after exemptions.
- The resources for a family of two (husband & wife) cannot exceed \$3000 after exemptions.
- Providers are reimbursed for the Eligible Services according to average Medicaid payment.
- Standards and Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) rates.
- Clients must use approved physicians.

Applications for the CIHC Program are available by writing or calling the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, P.O. Drawer 4128, Bryan, Texas 77805, (979) 595-2800, ext. 2267. Assistance with the Program is available in Waller County on the First Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Last Wednesday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 931 5th Street, Hempstead, Texas.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET FOR WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m, a public hearing will be held on the Proposed 2016 Budget for Waller County, Texas, as prepared by the County Judge, to be considered by the Waller County Commissioners Court. This budget hearing will be held at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445. A copy of the proposed budget for adoption is available for inspection in the Office of Debbie Hollan, County Clerk of Waller County, Texas. The public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing.

This budget will raise more total property tax than last year's budget by \$1,675,345 a 7.81 % increase, and of that amount, \$689,161 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

ABANDONED BOAT TRAILER: I have possession of an abandoned boat trailer ID #4J2BDKR1X1053051. If you know anything about the origination or ownership, and have definitive proof, of this boat trailer please contact Jay 281-986-9066. If I have heard nothing in 30 days, actions will be taken to procure ownership. Thank you. 4tc9/16

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New on the Market! Beautiful custom built home on 5.46 acres in a quiet country setting with private gated entrance. Home features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study plus 2 living areas, stainless steel appliances, reverse osmosis water system, two patios. Split floor plan with mother-in-law retreat and much more!.....**ASKING.....\$650,000**

3/2 home on 2 city lots with a large living/dinning area, a converted garage and a workshop.



New on the Market! Beautiful custom home on 5.46 acres in a quiet country setting with private gated entrance. Home features four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study plus two living areas. Stainless appliances, including subzero refrigerator, Viking stove, commercial icemaker, reverse osmosis water system, two patios, double pane windows, & much more. Split floor plan with mother-in-law retreat/2nd Master off kitchen. If your looking for the country life but want easy access to the city, you have found it! Call today!.....**ASKING.....\$650,000**

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FFA Continued from page 6A

sweepstakes division for their individual placings.

Wednesday, July 15 was another big day for the FFA members representing Waller with ten students gaining State recognition. The first of those recognitions was a State Proficiency Award winner. Kimberlee Davis, a junior at Waller High School, was awarded with the State Proficiency in Equine Placement for her supervised agricultural experience while working at the local Morning Glory Ranch. This is a huge accomplishment for her, and it means that she will

now be ranked nationally and recognized in October at the National FFA Convention. The Texas FFA Association gave Kim a State Plaque along with a \$1,250 scholarship.

In addition to this prestigious honor, nine students received the State FFA Degree. This degree is presented to third year members for their abilities to excel in their SAE and FFA activities. The recipients this year from Waller High School were Sydney Golbow, Reagan Caldwell, Kelci Chambers, Jordan Laughlin, Megan Landin, Sherry Wall-

in-Benningfield, Kylie Shollar, Justin Pershall, and Emily Bruner.

Lastly, one of Waller FFA's graduating seniors was awarded the Richard Wallrath Scholarship. Each year hundreds of FFA seniors from the state apply for a scholarship. The students are ranked based on academics, FFA activities, and need. The competition for a Texas FFA Scholarship is very tough, but this year Tyler Nelson was awarded \$10,000 to help further his education at Texas A&M University.

...



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*** Every Friday ***
Fish • 12 noon - 5 pm

*** Friday ***
Andrew Wade Band Live • 9 pm

*** Saturday ***
Jammin that Juke Box





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Featured Listings

ACREAGE

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

10 ACRES: Wooded tract in scenic North Waller County. Lightly restricted with community water. Waller ISD.....\$14,500/ac.

18.82 ACRES: Nice country property perfect for building a home! Pond for water for cattle or fishing\$14,500/ac.

21 ACRES: Ag-exempt property on Old Joseph road. Quiet, secluded and heavily-wooded - a perfect retreat!\$16,000/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: of rolling pasture with large pond, seasonal creek, fenced. Seller operates Organic Farm on adjoining 53 acres. Great homesite!\$10,200/ac.

50 ACRES: Good sandy loam soil, fenced, water well & electricity. Just 2 minutes south of Waller.....\$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.



Country Escape - 1,200 sq. ft. 1-1 home on 3.3 acres. Nicely landscaped with covered front porch, deck, hot tub and large workshop.....\$180,000



Townhomes - 5-unit townhome building in Prairie View. Each unit is a 2-2. Less than 1 mile from PVAMU campus. Built in 2009.....\$510,000



Beautiful country home on 2 acres! Light restrictions, pasture surrounding home and lovely pool with oversized patio.....\$340,000

HOMES

HEMPSTEAD: 3-2 manufactured home on just over 1-acre. Partially remodeled, 2 out buildings, 2-car carport, unrestricted!.....PENDING \$90,000

HEMPSTEAD: Older 2 bedroom home built in the 1930's. Large 3 car 2-story garage with upstairs apt. All this on 3.5 lots - great investment potential! \$118,500

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

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.PENDING\$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

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.PENDING\$218,000

CHARMING: Remodeled 2-3 (possibly 3-3) farm house on 5 acres in Pine Ridge. Spacious with large kitchen, beamed ceilings, wood floors & nice deck for outdoor living. Large shade trees. So much character!.....PENDING\$215,000

COUNTRY HOME: Situated on 5 unrestricted acres on Penick Rd., partially fenced with small storage building and well house. 3 (or 4) bedrooms, screened in porch, fireplace and tons of charm!.....PENDING \$234,000

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

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

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

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 Arlan'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.

COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

9-HOLE GOLF COURSE: Located 3-miles south of Waller. Additional 12-13 acres available with 5-6 acre lake.....PENDING.....\$250,000

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

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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



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 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.....\$237,500



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

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

- 4359 1-1-1 Brick home in Hempstead.....\$69,000
- 4375 3-2 Home in town with a smaller home also on property.....\$65,000
- 4391 5 Small homes on 3 city lots, investment potential.....\$250,000
- 4440 3-2-2 Brick home, sunroom, large living with fireplace, formal dining, large kitchen on over an acre.....\$218,000
- 4441 3-2.1/2 Two story home on two and a half acres with mature trees, large island kitchen, gated entrance.....\$499,000
- 4450 4-2.1-2 Brick home, two story, nice large corner lot with large shade trees.....\$196,500
- 4454 Nice brick 3-2 home on corner lot with large shade trees, fireplace, hardwood flooring...\$139,000
- 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.....\$237,500

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

- 4374 10 Acres in subdivision, deed restrictions, Waller ISD.....\$470,000
- 4386 160 Acres with lots of frontage, water well, FM frontage, could be divided.....\$2,486,820
- 4411 Lots in City of Waller, corner property, scattered trees, recently cleared.....\$27,900
- 4421 Beautiful 97 acres, brick home, barn, pond, scattered trees, close to Hwy. 290.....\$2,764,500
- 4422 Corner lot in Hempstead, additional lots available.....\$6,000
- 4423 Two lots in Hempstead, city utilities available.....\$12,000
- 4431 5 Acres, frontage on 2 roads, close to town, some restrictions.....PENDING.....\$79,500
- 4432 Unrestricted lot, commercial or residential, community water.....\$165,000
- 4433 4-3-2 Brick home with 2 fireplaces, on 4 acres with pond.....PENDING.....\$265,000
- 4435 4-3-2 100 Acres, large scattered oaks, ag exempt, community water available.....\$1,200,920
- 4437 3-2-1 Home, open floorpan, island kitchen on 4 acres, beautiful scattered trees.....\$225,000
- 4448 40 Acres, Hwy 290 visible frontage, currently in ag use.....\$1,006,000
- 4449 Commercial building on 2 acres with Hwy frontage, all equipment included.....\$495,000
- 4451 42.5 Acres, scattered trees, corner property, can be divided.....\$638,640
- 4452 3-3.1-3 Ranch style home with circle drive, fruit trees, workshop, cross fenced, recent roof, ag exempt.....\$479,900
- 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 pastures.....\$1,250,000
- 4088 80 Acres, barns, storage shed, lake, beautiful land.....\$2,258,760
- 4267 9 Acres, FM 2920 frontage, excellent development location.....\$1,300,000
- 4275 9+ Acres, Tomball area, ag exempt, FM 2920 frontage.....\$750,000
- 4276 318 Acres, Peek Rd in Katy, excellent location.....\$11,130,000
- 4309 Three lots with city utilities, curbs, close to schools and shopping.....\$35,000
- 4349 388 Acre horse ranch with rail fencing, FM frontage, barns, stables, 8 acre lake, large irrigated hay field, additional ponds, main home shaded by large oaks, additional home on property.....\$4,225,000
- 4360 Corner lot in city with utilities.....\$4,500

COUNTRY HOMES AND ACREAGE

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