



# EL CAMPO LEADER-NEWS

REMEMBER 9-11. HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL.

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VOLUME 130 NUMBER 52 • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

22 PAGES, 2 INSERTS

75¢

## County may make veteran service post full-time job

By JODY LARIMER  
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Wharton County commissioners acknowledged the veteran services officer's resignation and discussed the position's future when they met Monday.

Dwight Winkler, current VSO, submitted his resignation letter Aug. 31 citing medical issues. Oct. 31 will be his last day.

"You've been tremendous," County Judge Philip Spennath said to Winkler. "I've never heard a bad thing and I've heard of lot of positive things."

Everyone in the courtroom, including 15-20 veterans, honored Winkler with a round of applause.

"It's a small price to pay to those who have paid so much to this country," Winkler said in response.

Exactly how the office will continue in the future, whether part time or full time, and who will fill Winkler's shoes was discussed.

(See OUTGOING, Page 10-A)

## Retired EC fireman earns national honor

By SHANNON CRABTREE  
scrabtree@leader-news.com

An El Campo man's efforts to assist volunteer firefighters from coast to coast has earned national recognition.

The National Volunteer Fire Council has selected former El Campo Volunteer Fire Department President Patrick Hlavaty as the 2014 recipient of its E. James Monihan Director Award. The recognition goes to a NVFC board member for outstanding performance.

Hlavaty will be presented with the honor at the organization's spring meeting.

"I'm very proud," the now-retired local firefighter said.

As part of the NVFC, Hlavaty works with others to address volunteer firefighter issues ranging from safety legislation to benefits. "We try to make it as easy as possible, but safe as well," he said.

One example of the council's efforts is changing the materials used in firefighters' air packs – a requirement which literally lightens the load for a volunteer attempting to battle a blaze.

The retired El Campo volunteer serves on the NVFC committees for finance and international relations.

Earlier this year, he accompanied a team of Japanese firefighters on a tour of the fire training facilities on the Texas A&M University grounds.

"They were amazed," Hlavaty said. "They couldn't get over Disaster City and the rescue facilities."

Firefighters from other nations have been taken on similar tours, he added.

"Being from a small department – and going this far – it's something I hadn't thought about doing," Hlavaty

(See CHIEF: FIREMAN'S AWARD, Page 6-A)



PATRICK HLAVATY



## Undefeated Ricebirds Go For Third Win

– SEE PAGE 1-B

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### LOCAL WEATHER

**WEDNESDAY**  
Chance of Thunderstorms  
DAY: 20% HIGH: 95°  
NIGHT: 0% LOW: 76°

**THURSDAY**  
Chance of Thunderstorms  
DAY: 30% HIGH: 95°  
NIGHT: 30% LOW: 76°

**FRIDAY**  
Chance of Thunderstorms  
DAY: 40% HIGH: 93°  
NIGHT: 30% LOW: 70°

**SATURDAY**  
Chance of Thunderstorms  
DAY: 30% HIGH: 90°  
NIGHT: 30% LOW: 73°

LAST WEEK: AVG. HIGH: 93° • AVG. LOW: 73°

### RAIN GAUGE

Last 7 Days..... 0.10 In.

Last 30 Days..... 0.65 In.

Same Time In '13..... 2.42 In.

Year To Date ..... 20.97 In.

Year To Date '13 ..... 16.88 In.

Data Collected by LCRA at El Campo Memorial Hospital

### BURN BAN IN EFFECT

COUNTY'S MEAN KBDI: 529

Burn Ban is put into effect when the mean KBDI reaches or goes above 500.



# Park Progress

El Campo Community Services Director Chris Barbee steps down from one of the two major pieces of playground equipment being installed in the city's portion of the West Loop Park development. All pieces in this section of the

park will carry an agricultural theme from the barn-style roof to the hay bale steps.

L-N Photo by Shannon Crabtree

## Playground in works, opening may be January

By SHANNON CRABTREE  
scrabtree@leader-news.com

The bright red slide is not quite ready for use and workers are still installing ramps, but it's no longer difficult to envision a children's play area in the West Loop Park development.

Walking toward rows of little flags marking where sidewalks, benches and other items will soon be still means trodding upon dirt clods rather than manicured grass, but that should change soon, City Community Services Director Chris Barbee said Monday pointing out improvements under construction.

"I'm real happy. You can finally start visualizing what the park is going to look like," he told the *Leader-News*.

The first pieces came in just before Labor Day and a crew from Adams Construction of Hous-

### El Campo Community Cemetery Now Ballpark Neighbor

– See Page 8-A

ton began the process of hammering shiny red posts into the ground, attaching steps, ladders and other pieces.

The Landscape Structures playscapes are "top of the line," Adams crew chief Noel Flores said.

With currently dry skies and kinder weather in the forecast, efforts have begun in earnest with slabs for picnic tables and covered pavilions poured and sidewalks beginning to twist

through the 3.5-acre city portion of the 60-acre development near the intersection of West Jackson and the West Loop.

"We need to get as much done as quickly as we can. We need to get grass planted before we run out of heat," Barbee said.

Last September, the city hoped its new municipal park would be open in the spring of 2014 or early summer at the latest, but that was soon delayed.

Monday night, City Manager Mindi Snyder told Council she is hoping for a January ribbon cutting.

"By that time, the major construction will be completed," she said in a project update. "The high school teams will begin practice there in January and this will allow the public to know

(See PARK TAKING SHAPE, Page 10-A)

## CDC mission change tops El Campo leaders' debate

By SHANNON CRABTREE  
scrabtree@leader-news.com

Changing the City Development Corporation's mission topped priorities during the joint city, CDC and chamber of commerce meeting Monday.

The CDC, the city's official economic development arm, was created with the goal of bringing new industry and jobs to El Campo. To pursue that effort, it receives a quarter cent of the city's sales tax – estimated at \$587,020 in the next fiscal year.

But its current guidelines – termed 4A – limit it, Mayor Randy Collins said, adding, "There's a lot more things we can do (by becoming a 4B.)"

Demolition efforts are one ex-

ample. Greater support of retail and quality-of-life projects are others.

The mayor said there are a number of challenges El Campo faces, but added they can be overcome by the community working together to develop solutions.

"I don't think of El Campo as doing anything more than becoming a bedroom community," the mayor said, later adding, "We aren't going to attract a Caterpillar (industrial plant). We have more untrained workforce than trained workforce."

CDC board member David Allgayer disagreed, and pointed out the city's existing industry especially in the ag and construction trades.

"We have a lot going for us that

(See CITY GROWTH, Page 7-A)

## Alternative parking best bet for Ricebird games

By SHANNON CRABTREE  
scrabtree@leader-news.com

Planning ahead and seeking alternative parking spots kept Ricebird football fans from wishing they had wings last Friday, and police urge a repeat this week as the team takes to the home field against the Tomball Wildcats.

For the foreseeable future, Avenue I will be the only access route into the main high school parking lot during football games. Access via the currently tight, two-laned West Norris Street – allowed during standard school hours – will be shut down to help control football game traffic.

Officers reported to Police Chief Terry

(See WEST NORRIS STREET, Page 9-A)



# LAW & ORDER

## —Chief: Fireman's award good news for town



ECVFD Service

L-N File Photo

Patrick, right, and Helen Hlavaty have received numerous honors for their service to the department and its auxiliary. Shown above, current department president Kenny Socha presents one.

(Continued from Page 1-A)

said.

In 1997, Hlavaty served as the president of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals Association.

In 2005, that organization honored him as the top firefighter in the state for lasting contributions to firefighting efforts as well as to the communities where the firemen serve. Later that same year, the NVFC honored Hlavaty as the top volunteer fireman in the nation.

His military service during Vietnam, including his receipt of the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in a combat zone, was commented upon when he received the award notification. During his military service, Hlavaty also earned two Bronze Stars.

Hlavaty served as ECVFD's president for 15 years before turning the post over to current president Kenny Socha in 2009.

The NVFC award, EC Fire Chief Jimmy George Jr. said, "Is a great honor for him. It's also a very good thing for the El Campo fire department — that we have someone who is nationally recognized. It's a great honor."

A former Wharton County Youth Fair president, Hlavaty is also a member of St. Philip Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He and his wife Helen, one of the founders of the ECVFD Ladies Auxiliary, remain active volunteers in the department's fundraising efforts and other activities.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments  
Special Election November 4, 2014

#### Proposition Number 1 (SJR 1)

SJR 1 would authorize the transfer of certain money from the general revenue fund to the state highway fund and the economic stabilization fund. Money transferred to the state highway fund may be used solely for the construction, maintenance and acquisition of rights-of-way for public roadways.

The proposed amendment will

appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads."

Published by Texas Secretary of State Nandita Berry; [www.Vote-Texas.gov](http://www.Vote-Texas.gov) or 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

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## IMUD vote on tax, utility rate Thursday

By SHANNON CRABTREE  
[scrabtree@leader-news.com](mailto:scrabtree@leader-news.com)

Three separate meetings Thursday will focus on the cost Isaacson Municipal Utility District residents will pay for operations in the next fiscal year.

The district, serving less than 250 homes on the northeast side of El Campo, is proposing a slightly less than two-cent tax hike from 52.695 cents per \$100 in taxable property to 55.330 cents per \$100. That's down from the 55.881 cent rate initially proposed, but rejected during Monday budget talks.

Utility rates are also expected to rise as the city announced increases effective Oct. 1. The IMUD buys its water from the city of El Campo and then charges residents for its distribution.

The district pays for its own meters, line maintenance, meter reading and personnel.

Monday afternoon, garbage rates were added into the discussion mix.

"We have a problem with trash cans getting run over," District Manager Wanda Evanicky said Tuesday. "We also have a problem with people stealing them when they move out (of rental property)."

Staff is proposing a \$1 per month administrative fee to cover losses.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, IMUD officials will take on the proposed tax rate.

Home values in the IMUD are the lowest of Wharton County's 21 taxing entities, with the average unit rising in value from \$48,900 last year to \$49,800 this year.

Currently, the average homeowner there pays

\$257.69 tax to the district. With the added property value and proposed tax rate, that bill could rise to \$275.5, a difference of \$17.85.

At 6 p.m., discussions move to the proposed budget.

Votes on all issues are expected a half hour later when IMUD officials convene their regular session.

If all utility rate increases are also approved the based district water bill will rise 5 percent, Evanicky said, from \$70.82 per month to \$74.35. A base bill covers 3,000 gallons or less of water usage.

All three meetings are open to the public.

The IMUD meets in district offices, 403 N. Liberty.

### JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF WHARTON §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE DATED the 29th day of August, 2014, and issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the District Court of Wharton County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 29th day of August, 2014, seized, levied upon, and will on the 7th day of October, 2014, at the front entrance of Courthouse Annex at 309 East Milam in the City of Wharton, at 10:00 A.M. on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Wharton County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page reference (V\_\_\_/P\_\_\_) or document number of the Deed Records, Wharton County, Texas. The approximate property addresses reflected herein are the addresses on the tax records and may or may not be completely accurate.

CAUSE #	STYLE	PROP DESCRIPTION, ADDRESS, ACCT #
8365	The County of Wharton, Texas v Donald Krushall, et al	Lot 5 of Golf Crest Estate, a subdivision in the City of Wharton, 2837 GOLF CREST DR, Account #R015762
8863	The County of Wharton, Texas v Keith A. Sanderlin, et al	0.2525 Acre, more or less, being Lot 1, Block 10, Hungerford Addition, Wharton County, Texas and a manufactured home, 1996 Town & Country, 16 feet by 76 feet, Label No. NTA0578273, Serial No. TXCTC961637, 7531 HABERMACHER, Account #R017584/R061402
8867	The County of Wharton, Texas v Joe B. Gonzales, et al	LOUISE BLOCK 19 LOT 8,9,10 --IMP.ONLY 1999 CLAYTON HOMES SENSATION 16X76 LABEL # HWC0282400 SERIAL # CLW013797TX, 605 THIRD, Account #R057859
8870	The County of Wharton, Texas v John Whalon	HUNGERFORD BLOCK 20 LOT 3 --IMP.ONLY 12X53, 7608 COLORADO, Account #R056762
8877	The County of Wharton, Texas v Unknown Heirs to the Estate of Serelda Bishop, deceased, et al	Lot 9, Correll Addition to the City of El Campo, 315 OLIVE, Account #R012982
9016	Wharton County, et al v Rose Marie Earls a/k/a Rosemary Earls, et al	GLEN FLORA BLOCK 4 LOT 17B --IMP.ONLY MH LABEL # RAD0881910, 107 ELM, Account #R055660
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 223715 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 4 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL SURVEY RRC: 223715, 0, Account #G507711
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 209797 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 10R DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL #4 RRC: 209797, 0, Account #G504741
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 209214 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 8 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL #4 RRC: 209214, 0, Account #G504236
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 203438 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 6 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL #4 SURVEY RRC: 203438, 0, Account #G503363
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 200830 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 5 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL #4 SURVEY RRC: 200830, 0, Account #G503040
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 197492 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 3 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL SURVEY RRC: 197492, 0, Account #G502731
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 195513 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 2 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL #4 SURVEY RRC: 195513, 0, Account #G515791
9123	The County of Wharton, Texas v Felix Flores, Jr. et al	LEASE ID 185829 RI 0.000426 PEACH CREEK GAS UNIT 1 DYNAMIC/ROBERT KUYKENDALL SURVEY RRC: 185829, 0, Account #G502238
9226	Wharton County et al v Rebecca L. Mendez a/k/a Rebecca Lynn Mendez et al	78.10 feet by 150 feet, containing 0.2689 acre, more or less, out of acre Lots 31 and 32, Duson Addition, an addition to the City of El Campo, 407 E CORRELL, Account #R013670
9583	The County of Wharton, Texas v Shannell Bullock	Lots 40, 41 and 42, Harlem Addition to the City of El Campo, GREELY, Account #R015951
9770	The County of Wharton, Texas v Sonny Wade Smith	1 Acre out of Abstract 64 of the David Wade Survey AKA Tract 82A, 6748 FM 1161, Wharton, Texas 77488-3751, Account #R059453
9811	The County of Wharton, Texas v Juan F. Tijerina et al	Lots 5 & 6, Block 14, Highland Addition to the City of El Campo, 412 Foerster, Account #R017059
9811	The County of Wharton, Texas v Juan F. Tijerina et al	1 Acre, more or less, out of Abstract 459, Tract 7B-1, 11663 HWY 71, Account #R041298
9814	The County of Wharton, Texas v Mercedes Arismendez et al	Lot 3B, Block 4, Fairview Addition, City of El Campo, 512 Roth St., El Campo, Texas 77437-5402, Account #R015097
9827	The County of Wharton, Texas v Anthony J. Baca et al	1.0 Acre, more or less, out of Abstract 59, Tracts 7 and 15, being Lot 26C-1A-1, and a Manufactured home, Serial #HOTX08802459, Label #TEX0558043, 16X64, Oakwood model, Penwood, Account #R058183

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, a for all costs of court and sale.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATED the 29th day of August, 2014, at Wharton, Texas

JESS HOWELL  
Sheriff, Wharton County, Texas

You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (979) 282-8089.

## COURT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 2-A)

In a separate case, the judge also ordered Escamilla's conviction for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon adjudicated.

In that Dec. 17, 2010 offense, "She stabbed a woman in the stomach with a knife," Wharton County District Attorney Ross Kurtz told the *Leader-News*.

The two sentences will run concurrently.

Other recent revocations (all felonies unless otherwise noted) include:

- Marcus Lawell Carter, 44, of 305 Olive in El Campo for assault family violence — choking. His probation for the November 2010 offense was revoked and he was sentenced to three years in prison.

- Jeremy Lee Estrada, 28, of 615 W. Caney in Wharton for theft, a Class A misdemeanor. His conviction for the November 2007 offense was adjudicated and he was sentenced to three days in county jail.

Estrada received credit for the full jail time already served.

- Ofelia Lopez Parker, 46, of Victoria for driving while intoxicated third or more offense. Her probation was revoked and she was sentenced to two years in prison for the July 2011 offense.

Parker received credit for 481 days already served.

- James Ramirez Jr. aka James Ramirez, 49, address unavailable, for possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone. His probation for the June 2013 offense was revoked and he was sentenced to two years in prison.

Ramirez received credit for 164 days already served.

- Phillip Lane Wood, 42, address unavailable for burglary of a building. His probation for the December 2000 offense was revoked and he was sentenced to 39 days in county jail.

Wood received credit for the full jail time already served.



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