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**HART, TEXAS CASTRO COUNTY VOLUME 2 NUMBER 6 JUNE 12, 2015**

## Really?

By Neoma Williams

I almost always scan *The Canadian Record's* opinion pages. I've told you before what a marvelous paper this northeastern Panhandle weekly is.

The editor, Laurie Ezzell Brown, recently wrote about the low voter turnout in their school board and city council elections.

She shared a conversation she had with a school district employee who told her that she had had two registered voters come in the office to cast ballots, but left without doing so. It seems that these two potential voters were handed ballots and told they could vote for two of the four candidates. These people asked, "Where do I vote on the bond issue?"

The school employee told the two that there was no bond issue, but just the school board election. The two handed back their still-unmarked ballots and walked out the door.

Laurie wondered how any literate adult in Hemphill County could not know what was actually on the ballot. "How is it possible that anyone with even a minimal IQ and a driver's license or voter registration card could not pick up a newspaper and read one of the many reports published, detailing not only the candidates in each race, but also the times, dates, locations, deadlines and candidate and voter requirements.

Laurie went all out to notify the public of the elections and the candidates. *The Pulse* did not do this, since it's published monthly. And, I didn't try very hard to apprise the public; it seems most don't care. I suspect the low-voter outcome would be the same, however, had I done just a bit of what Laurie did to inform her readers.

She also asks, "How is it possible that anyone who thinks they are qualified to vote could be so utterly ill prepared as to not know exactly what they are voting for—



Richard Garcia, left, holds a large facsimile check showing he is the latest winner of a Shopping Giveaway at Ed Harris Lumber Co. Garcia was chosen as the winner of Ed Harris Lumber's \$1,000 Shopping Giveaway. The store, a Do It Best Corp. member, offers a complete line of hardware, plumbing, lumber, etc. (Based in Fort Wayne Indiana, Do it Best Corp. is the only full-service U.S.-based, member-owned hardware, lumber and building materials buying cooperative in the home improvement industry.)

or, as I suspect in this case, against?"

More of Brown's thoughts: "In some countries, voters face threats of intimidation, violence retaliation—even death—when they attempt to exercise their voting rights. In 2014, the Taliban unleashed 39 suicide bombers in an effort to dissuade Afghan citizens from casting ballots. Instead, voters turned out in such high numbers that polling hours were extended nationwide.

The Indonesian country of East Timor held its election in 2001. More than 350,000 people voted—some walking for hours to reach the polling place from their remote villages, others braving the attacks of anti-independence militia armed with guns and machetes in order to vote. Despite those hardships, over 93 percent of the country's registered voters cast ballots.

It's only my guess—but a good one—that those brave citizens made sure they knew what was

on the ballot before risking their lives to exercise that privilege.

Laurie went on to say how the local water district is educating school-age children on water conservation. The town's fifth-graders went on a field trip to the Canadian River to identify grasses and macro invertebrates and catch tadpoles. The water district noticed the impact of this when parents began coming into the district's office to ask where they could get rainwater harvesting barrels their kids had insisted every home must have.

She writes that perhaps there is hope to be found in this younger generation, who show promising signs of grasping the responsibility they have for the world around them and who understand that they must take an active role in protecting its future, and in sharing the knowledge they have acquired with others. At least, she said she is going to cling to that hope for now.

## Roberts Is Hart Postmaster

Rosalinda Roberts of Olton was named the Postmaster for the Hart Post Office in March. She replaces Sherry Elliott, who returned to Abernathy to serve as postmaster there.

Roberts has worked in Hart for nine years, serving as a Part-time Flexible Clerk, and then the Officer in Charge for 7½ years.

Her husband Kenneth works as maintenance supervisor at Olton ISD. The couple has a 12-year old son Drake, who will be in the seventh grade at Olton schools next school year.

Rosalinda (Rosie) was in the Naval Reserves for eight years. She was not deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, but performed as a guard for a weapons station in Hawaii during her service.

She also has worked as a manager of a convenience store, and also worked in Lubbock at a home medical service facility.

## Godino Appointed Licensed Rabies Control Authority

Ricky Godino, who has been Hart's Animal Control Officer, will be taking training in Lubbock to become a Licensed Rabies Control Authority. This was approved at the May 11 City Council meeting.

Beginning June 1, those City employees who work outside requested to be allowed to begin their work days at 7 a.m. and leave at 4 p.m., instead of 8-5, because of the summer heat. This was unanimously approved.

Also discussed was the application of mosquito spraying in the City. After some brief discussion, the Council agreed to pay those City employees who run the mosquito spraying machine after hours \$15 an hour; the employees will work no more than 3 hours per day, after their regular hours, to spray.

It was also discussed that Sheriff Sal Rivera has suggested installing radios in the City pickups, loader and other vehicles. The radios will be used in emergencies. The City has two such radios, and the Sheriff's Office gave them another one. The City will pay to have the radios programmed.



**Rosalinda Roberts**

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