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The Pulse ^{\$2}

HART, TEXAS CASTRO COUNTY VOLUME 1 NUMBER 08 AUGUST 22, 2014

School Looking For Early Yearbooks

Hart ISD is seeking yearbooks from the 1940s and before. Also, the 1954 senior panel picture is missing. An HHS alum has offered a 1954 yearbook to use to make the panel picture if it doesn't show up.

Supt. Ken Rosser reports that the senior panel pictures are being exhibited in the halls of Hart Jr.-Sr. High on easels. The panels on hand begin with the 1948 senior class.

If you have such annuals or the missing panel, or any other pertinent information, contact the high school at 938-2141, extension 205.

City Adopts Proposed Rollback Tax Rate

The Hart City Council adopted a proposed rollback tax rate of \$0.469/\$100 valuation at its Aug. 11 meeting.

The City has opted to notify property owners of the proposal by sending notices in the mail. And, a notice is published on Page 6 of *The Pulse*. At the regular Sept. 8 meeting, the matter will be on the agenda for official adoption. Voting for the proposed rate at the Aug. 11 meeting were all council members: Vickie Ethridge, Danny Rodriguez, Eliazar Castillo, Paul Ramirez and Wamon Foster. Mayor Stanley Dyer does not vote unless there is a tie.

Jerry Heller, Chief Appraiser for the County Appraisal District, told *The Pulse* on Monday that the new rate will bring in an additional \$7,433.20 revenue to the City. Most of this revenue, Heller said, will come from taxes paid by Xcel Energy, which has improved some of its assets in the City. The tax rate is less than the current rate of \$0.520, which was a rollback rate last year. Because the property values have increased by \$3,454,180, the rate can be less than the current year. State law requires any tax increase more than 7.89% over the effective rate, Heller said, be considered a rollback rate. The proposed rate is an increase of 7.8%. The effective rate is that which raises the same amount of money as the previous year, and is \$0.435.

Heller also said that taxpayers have a recourse of petitioning for an election to approve the tax increase. Schools, on the other hand, must hold an election, without petition, if a rollback rate is adopted. He added that residential values in Hart stayed the same as that of 2013.

Sheriff Says County Has No Military Equipment Received During His Tenure

Sheriff Sal Rivera told *The Pulse*, when asked if he has received/requested excess military equipment through the "1033 program," said that he got some 16mm rifles for his department, but returned them because of government red tape. He called the red-tape process "ridiculous."

There have been many reports about the "militarization" of law enforcement in America since the Ferguson, Missouri, situation came to light. It has been noted that some equipment given to agencies is needed, but that some is "over-kill." And, that law enforcement does not have the same duties as that of the military.

Hart ISD Meets STAAR Standards; Campuses Don't

Robin Straley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Hart ISD, presented the 2014 Accountability Ratings to the School Board at the Aug. 11 meeting.

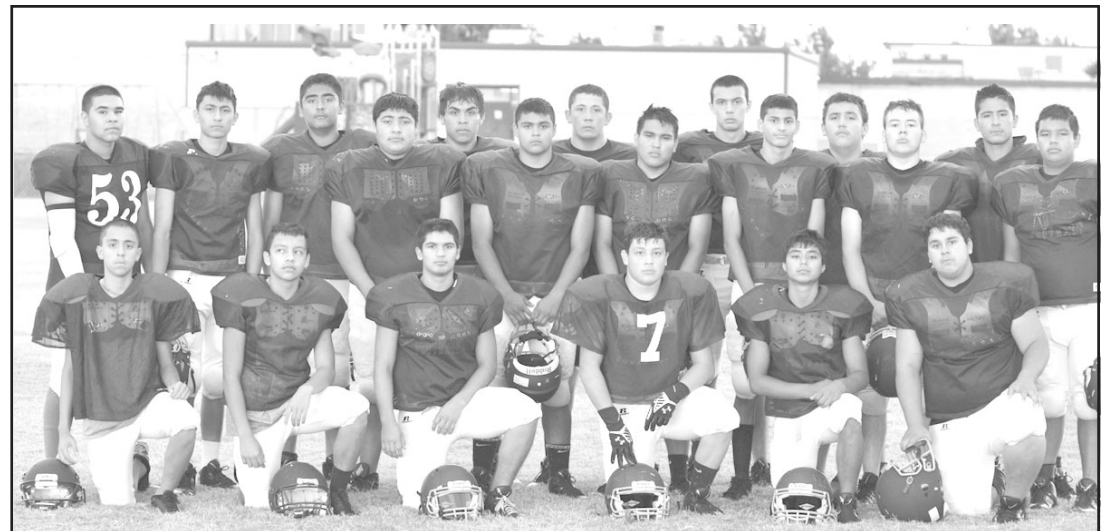
The district met the standards, but neither campus, secondary and elementary, did. The state weighted by four times, progress results for Hispanics, Economically Disadvantaged and English Language Learners. And, the district met the standard because it met the targets for four indices, Straley said. The two campuses received "Improvement Required" ratings, while the district received "Met Standards" rating.

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) replaced TAKS in 2012. Students in Grades 3-12 are tested on certain subjects: reading, math, writing, science and social studies; not every grade is tested on each of these subjects. Students in Grades 9-12 (students can complete testing requirements before senior year) are tested based on End-of-Course assessments for English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History.

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MISS HART is Karely Mejia.
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2014 LONGHORN FOOTBALL TEAM - Back two rows, l to r, Angel Corral, Raul Gonzalez II, Max Espinoza, Fabian Gonzales, Julian Rojas, Justin Garcia, Eloy Marquez, Anthony Carrasco, Jose Luna, Angel Morales, Manuel Lujan, Eliazar Esquivel, Juan Espinoza and Isaias Barron. In the front, l to r, Ulises Vega, Isaac Barron, Abram Carlos, Josh Garcia, Michael Salinas and Jonathan Cantu.
photo by Rob O'Connor