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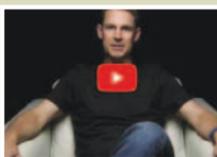
WAXAHACHIE.TX.COM /NEWS



Aldi opens

See a photo collection of Aldi's opening on Tuesday online at WAXAHACHIE.TX.COM.

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WAXAHACHIE.TX.COM /OBITUARIES

- Mary Dawson, Waxahachie
- Bethany Wolaver, 20, Ennis
- Robert Wright, 89, Waxahachie

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TODAY'S EDITION /WHAT TO DO

Nov. 8 9:30 a.m. Ellis County Veterans Ceremony at the Waxahachie Civic Center.



Local economy keeps growing

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said Wednesday that state sales tax revenue in October was \$2.41 billion, up 12.9 percent compared to October 2013. "Strong growth in sales tax receipts was apparent across all major economic sectors," Combs said. "Notable increases from retail trade and the oil and natural gas-related sectors led the growth, indicating increased spending by both consumers and businesses."

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their November local sales tax allocations totaling \$723.1 million, up 10.5 percent compared to November 2013.

SEE GROWING, PAGE 8A

Navarro College adds county vice president

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MIDLOTHIAN — Navarro College has completed the search for the Vice President of Ellis County, a new position which will serve as the chief operating officer for the Midlothian campus, while overseeing programs and services at both Ellis County campuses. Dr. Alex J. Kajstura has been selected as the new Vice President.

Dr. Kajstura holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Southern Illinois University. He has two masters: an M.B.A. from LeTourneau University and a M.S. in Organic Chemistry from Texas Tech



Dr. Alex J. Kajstura

SEE NAVARRO, PAGE 8A

RE-ENACTORS ROLL IN



WDL file photo by Mike Sackett

General Patton and other World War II re-enactors ride into downtown Waxahachie to set up camp for the Battle for Waxahachie in 2013. This year's mock battle will follow the same schedule as last year.

Battle for Waxahachie brings World War II re-enactors to downtown

BY ANDREW BRANCA DAILY LIGHT STAFF WRITER

The battle for Waxahachie will take place as hundreds of World War II re-enactors come to downtown this Saturday. Re-enactors will arrive and set up camp to give residents a glimpse into history.

"There are going to be a lot more new faces this year. The word is really getting out. I understand that we have re-enactors coming as far away as Oklahoma and Louisiana,

which is great to see," Parks and Recreation Director John Smith said. "Re-enactors are going to start showing up on Friday. They will be camping in the perspective Allied and Axis camps down near the depot, Boyce Grain and Feed and near the hike and bike trail head on Rogers Street."

Smith said the camps are going to be interactive and the public is welcome to tour. Each camp will be historically accurate and show how soldiers lived during that time period.

Camps are going to be set up at 1 p.m. Friday. That night an Oktoberfest will be held at 6 p.m. at the College Street Pub.

A black market for vendors will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Franklin Street in downtown Saturday. It will feature various military and various demonstrations and displays. Re-enactors will also be at the Ellis County Veterans Ceremony that will start at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Throughout the day, there

SEE RE-ENACTORS, PAGE 8A

Municipal judge lays down gavel

BY ANDREW BRANCA DAILY LIGHT STAFF WRITER

Joe Gallo has worked hard for the past five years to bring a new level of professionalism to the city's municipal court. His goal as municipal court judge has been to provide citizens who enter the courtroom a fair hearing.

The Waxahachie City Council honored Gallo for his service to the community as municipal court judge Monday. Gallo was appointed to the position in 2009 and is stepping down Nov. 16.



Gallo

"This was really the greatest honor of my life. I have done several things in public service. I was a prosecutor and worked in the district attorney's office. I was also a city councilman," Gallo said. "To be a judge there is a tremendous amount of trust that the city gave me to be the judge. Basically, what they said is that we trust your judgment. That's special. I hope that after five years of service I earned their trust."

When the opportunity came up, he felt his experience as a prosecutor and a defense attorney gave him the skills to see both sides of an issue, he said.

The cases the city's municipal court handles includes all Class C misdemeanors violations such as parking, traffic and city ordinances. It also handles greater Class C misdemeanors cases such as public intoxication, theft less than \$50, disorderly conduct, driving

SEE GAVEL, PAGE 8A

Ellis County Music to celebrate 20th anniversary

BY SHELLY CONLON WDL DIGITAL NEWS EDITOR

To celebrate the 20 years Ellis County residents have allowed the Ellis County Music Center to remain in business, the family-owned store is giving back on a community wide level.

For the first time since the business started, the store employees will host "Music for Meals" a canned food drive benefiting Waxahachie CARE, a local food pantry that serves about 400 families a month in Waxahachie and the south Ellis County area. "Music for Meals" will start at about 10 a.m. on Saturday at 1568 N. U.S. Highway 77 in Wax-

ahachie. "For me, if you don't have that (support), what kind of milestone is it?" Tim Grant, the president of the company. "It's this community that's allowed us to be here for 20 years. It's our friends and neighbors that come and do business with us. Why not? Why lose that importance in this kind of celebration?"

Grant's parents started the store in 1994, and Grant, who is also known as "Little T," took over the store six months ago when his parents decided they were ready to get ready for retirement. Before that, Grant worked for a large audio/visual company for 14 years.

"It's great. Where else can you go to know that not only are you a member of the community you're helping, but that you're supporting your family," Grant said. "My grandmother sits across from me in the office every day. I wouldn't have that opportunity anywhere else. This was just one of those opportunities where if you don't take it, you'll always wonder, 'Should I have?' I didn't want to have any of that kind of regret and it's been very rewarding, personally."

The idea for the food drive came during a regular weekly Friday morning meeting with Grant's core staff, he said.

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 9A



Photo by Shelly Conlon/Daily Light digital news editor Aaron Inman, Ellis County Music Center sales coordinator, stands with the center's president Tim Grant, left, inside the store on Wednesday. The staff is hosting a food drive on Saturday to benefit Waxahachie CARE as part of the store's 20th anniversary.

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WAXAHACHIE.TX.COM/NEWS

NAVARRO

FROM PAGE 1A

University. Dr. Kajstura brings more than 25 years of experience to Navarro College. He began his career in community colleges as a faculty member teaching chemistry and physics at Northeast Texas Community

College in 1988. From there he became a Division Director at Texas State Technical College in Marshall then moved to an Associate Dean position at Palm Beach Community College in Florida. He served as a Dean and then was promoted to Provost at Daytona Beach State College. Dr. Kajstura left Florida to assume the position of the Provost of Norfolk Campus

at Tidewater Community College, VA. His last position was as President of the Northwest Campus in the Pima Community College District.

Dr. Kajstura has a distinguished record of service at the national level. He was elected to the Executive Committee for the American Association of Community College's President Academy.

He also served on the Advisory Board for the Educational Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. As a scholar and researcher, he has an extensive list of publications and has served as presenter at regional and national conferences.

Dr. Kajstura will begin his tenure as the Vice President on Tuesday.

GAVEL

FROM PAGE 1A

while intoxicated and possession of drug paraphernalia.

While serving as the municipal judge Gallo has worked to bring a new level of professionalism to the court by addressing issues and concerns that were raised by residents and increasing efficiency.

"One of the things that I wanted to bring to the court was to establish a pattern of reasonable constitutional bail amounts being set for citizens being accused for crimes. Having practiced on both sides of the courtroom I understand the fundamentals of setting bails, what is required by law and what the purpose is," Gallo said. "It was perceived to be a problem that the bails were not being set at an reasonable amount. The constitution says and the law says that bails should be set at a reasonable amount. The purpose of bail is to ensure their appearance in court."

Gallo said he has worked hard to set bail amounts that were fair and by reducing the amount it has still accomplished the purpose of having people to come to court.

Gallo has also worked to reduce the court's dependency on warrants and increase compliance from people to resolve their cases with the court. The court's practice before Gallo was to issue warrants to get people to resolve their cases.

"The easy thing to do is just to issue a warrant for somebody when they have not complied with their ticket. That is the easy thing to do. Because you just put it out in the system and hope that some day they will get arrested. I don't think that is best for justice, for the city or the citizen," Gallo said. "What I tried to do is to bring kind of the small business background that I have in running my own business trying to make things more efficient. For example one of the things that I did was I created these little cards that got sent out to citizens as a reminder that they hadn't



Photo by Andrew Branca/Daily Light staff writer
Waxahachie Mayor Kevin Strength presents a plaque to honor Municipal Judge Joe Gallo for his five years of service to the city at Monday's city council meeting. Standing with Gallo are his family.

taken care of their ticket. We have no obligation to remind you that you have not taken care of your ticket. That does accomplish the bigger goal that we want these tickets to be taken care of."

Gallo said that process was also carried out when warrants were issued. Postcards would be sent out, notifying residents a warrant had been issued and they needed to take care of their unresolved issue with the court. By giving people a second chance and reminding them it increases compliance, Gallo said.

Another improvement Gallo made to the court was the creation of several different types of forms. This helped to make community between residents and the court run smoother. One such form was for community service. The form listed all the requirements for a community service program; agencies a person could perform com-

munity service at and contact information for those agencies. Gallo said before, people were not given any direction on how to do their community service.

Gallo said the reason he is stepping down is that he feels that he has accomplished everything he has wanted to as judge, and five years is a good term of service. He added that he felt like it is a good time for somebody else to take over.

"I was able to accomplish all the things that I wanted to accomplish. We changed the patterns of the bonds and the bail amounts that were being set," Gallo said. "We increased the efficiency and compliance. We reduced or eliminated the complaints the court had received."

The city council appointed local attorney Ed Jendrzej as the city's next municipal court judge. Jendrzej has served as an associate judge in the municipal court since

2011, filling in if Gallo was out of town or off on the weekend, covering arraignments.

"I am excited," Jendrzej said in a previous Waxahachie Daily Light article. "The court is running efficiently and I don't plan on changing anything immediately. But if I see avenues or things that we might be able to do more efficiently then we will certainly do it."

Gallo said he is fully confident that Jendrzej will do a great job.

"Over the five years that I have done this job I have gotten to know him better. I think that he is a great guy," Gallo said. "We share the same outlook on the criminal justice system and the constitution. He will do a great job. I think the court is in great hands."

Contact Andrew at andrew.branca@waxahachietx.com or 469-517-1451. Follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AndrewBrancaWDL or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AndrewBrancaWNI.

RE-ENACTORS

FROM PAGE 1A

will be several military vehicles on display around the historic courthouse square. In previous years there have been jeeps, motorcycles, transport trucks and even a half-track. The mock battle for the train depot is set for 3:30 p.m. in the 400 block of Rogers St.

"The battle is expected to

last about 20-30 minutes, depending on the scenario they come up with. No real ammunition is going to be used only blanks," Smith said. "The rifles are only the gun powder type of blanks. So you will get the smoke and you will get the smell. Some of those large machine guns are gas powered. They are propane. It gives a real loud and audible sensation."

Smith said every weapon used in the mock battle

would be inspected when re-enactors check in for the event to make sure they are safe and contain no real ammunition.

When the battle starts, a section of Rogers Street will be roped off for spectators to safely observe the action. During this time spectators need to be aware that vehicles will be traveling down the streets and the mock battle will be loud.

"Typically, when the battle starts the vehicles come from Rogers and College Streets and move into the battle zone. The Germans are usually pushed to the bridge

where they are defeated," Smith said. "We have had had an M3 troop carrying half-track before. It is a huge piece of equipment. We are hoping that it comes back this year."

For a full list of events and the schedule, check out the event's Facebook page by searching Waxahachie Veterans Weekend.

Contact Andrew at andrew.branca@waxahachietx.com or 469-517-1451. Follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AndrewBrancaWDL or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AndrewBrancaWNI.

GROWING

FROM PAGE 1A

The same holds true in Ellis County as the economy continues to expand for nearly all of the municipal tax districts.

As a whole, sales tax returns for all Ellis County municipalities rose by 15.48 percent in November over November 2013 on taxable revenue for goods and services purchased during the month of October in Ellis County municipalities.

Locally, the city of Waxahachie received \$1,257,027.91 in November, a 14.85 percent increase over November 2013 receipts of \$1,094,434.21. Year to date, Waxahachie has received \$12,057,842.57, a 7.51 percent increase over YTD 2013 receipts of \$11,214,749.63.

Other Ellis County cities showed the city of Ennis receiving \$385,409.53 in November receipts, up 3.9 percent from November 2013 receipts of \$370,913.87. Year to date, Ennis has received \$4,170,123.48, a 9.24 percent increase over 2013 receipts of \$3,817,395.42.

The city of Midlothian received \$601,800.11 in November receipts, up 26.11 percent over November 2013 receipts of \$477,165.66. Year to date, Midlothian has received \$5,837,772.24, a 27.65 percent increase over 2013 receipts of \$4,573,016.51.

The city of Red Oak received \$287,318.62 in November receipts, a 13.68 percent increase over November 2013 receipts of \$252,742.95. Year to date, Red Oak has received \$2,766,525.54, a 10.01 percent increase over 2013 receipts of \$2,514,751.75.

Other municipalities' receipts (November 2014, November 2013, percent change, year to date 2014, year to date 2013, percent change) were:

- Alma – \$2,402.08, \$2,815.36, down 14.67 percent, \$26,467.40, \$32,898.62, down 19.54 percent
- Bardwell – \$1,994.07, \$1,143.56, up 74.37 percent, \$10,133.12, \$11,011.58, down 7.97 percent
- Ferris – \$52,247.80, \$44,329.30, up 17.86 percent, \$448,672.60, \$341,339.94, up 31.44 percent
- Garrett – \$4,423.89, \$1,843.47, up 139.97 percent, \$45,487.68, \$22,760.44, up 99.85 percent
- Italy – \$35,866.83, \$28,183.46, up 27.26 percent, \$292,390.73, \$274,069.06, up 6.68 percent
- Maypearl – \$18,925.53, \$10,112.23, up 87.15 percent, \$118,904.21, \$93,706.27, up 26.89 percent
- Milford – \$2,355.09, \$1,903.01, up 23.75 percent, \$20,213.78, \$16,394.22, up 23.29 percent
- Oak Leaf – \$5,487.94, \$3,771.04, up 45.52 percent, \$45,910.15, \$38,615.25, up 18.89 percent
- Ovilla – \$29,706.17, \$33,425.48, down 11.12 percent, \$284,866.55, \$289,494.66, down 1.59 percent
- Palmer – \$23,356.76, \$22,538.17, up 3.63 percent, \$207,903.35, \$183,097.08, up 13.54 percent
- Pecan Hill – \$591.41, \$397.22, up 48.88 percent, \$5,248.10, \$4,330.55, up 21.18 percent

As a whole, Ellis County municipalities brought in \$2,708,913.74 for November, a 15.48 percent increase over November 2013 receipts of \$2,345,718.99. Year to date, receipts total \$26,338,461.50, a 12.42 percent increase over 2013 YTD receipts of \$23,427,630.98.

For details of local sales tax allocations in November to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

COMMUNITY NEWS NOTES

2015 Calendar Collection

Waxahachie City Federation of Women's Clubs is once again collecting calendars for the Veterans Hospital in Dallas.

Last year more than 800 calendars were delivered to the hospital for use by patients and staff. Your help is needed to again reach our city goal. As calendars arrive in your mailbox, please save them for the veterans.

Collection boxes are located at the Waxahachie Daily Light, 200 West Marvin and KBEC Radio Station located at 722 Ferris Avenue in Waxahachie. The Federation appreciates the continuing city support for this very important project.

Questions may be directed to Pam Wilhoite at 214-686-4288 or pam.wilhoite@sbcglobal.net

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Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Corsicana Public Library.

Dead line to apply is Friday, November 21, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

More Information and application may be found on the City's website at: <http://www.cityofcorsicana.com/index.aspx?NID=587> or you may contact the Civil Service Department at 903.654.4822

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