

Bosque County News

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cordingly.”
The Property Tax Division from the State Comptroller’s office sends field representatives to check the property values.
“If there are not enough sales in any one category, the state does their own appraisal, if they determine the values do not meet their appraisals they will use their own figures (whether their figures are higher or lower). If there is not a match with the appraisal district’s figures and the state’s figures that generates a review of the county appraisal district office,” said Henry. “I have been under review for the past two years now for being too low.”

The aim is to have the property values at 100 percent of market.

All of this information can be found at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo.

Notices are sent to property owners on May 1, after which they have 30 days to come in to the appraisal office and make any adjustments, or file a protest, Henry said.

“After May 31, if no protest is filed, there is nothing we can do as far as adjustments,” Henry said.

If a property owner does file a protest by the deadline, the Appraisal Review Board secretary will contact them to set up a hearing date. Any evidence that will be used in the protest must be submitted five days prior to the hearing. The notice and all other requirements (including time limits for speaking to the board) are mailed to the property owner prior to the hearing.

“Many property owners come to the protest hearing with nothing more than a complaint that their taxes are too high; no like property comparisons, no evi-

dence on their own behalf to show that the size of the house might be in error for example,” Henry said.

“I would again urge the taxpay-

ers to approach the appraisal office first, to see if we might be able to correct or adjust any problems without having to utilize the review board.”

The contact information for the Appraisal Office is: Bosque County Central Appraisal Office, 9293 Hwy 6, Meridian, (254) 435-2304.

Miracle Girlcontinued from page 1

“We didn’t know anything was wrong at first,” said her mother. At birth, Amaryllis appeared normal. After several months, however, her mother realized that she could not sit up like other children, had little or no use of her right arm and could not walk.

“I took her to the doctors and they did a brain scan and said there was no activity on the right side, none at all,” said Adiola Heartsill. “I asked them if she would ever be able to walk or talk or learn like other children.

“They just shrugged and said they didn’t know.”

At first Amaryllis appeared to have been severely set back by the condition. She was slow to walk, slow to talk and, for years, her parents used sign language to communicate with her.

When she began to learn, however, she did so rapidly. She quickly mastered speech, learned to walk, then run, then swim.

“She’s my miracle child,” said her mother.

Moreover, she showed exceptional intelligence.

“Once, she picked up a book in Spanish and just began reading it to me. It was perfect,” said her mother.

Amaryllis excelled in school, where she made straight-A’s and gained the reputation of being just a little too intense about her studies.

“One teacher called me a perfectionist,” she said.

That intensity has led not only to her perfect grade average but to UIL awards for participation on the science and social studies teams and an individual first place social studies award.

“Social studies is my favorite subject,” said Amaryllis.

Still, she hasn’t spent all her time engrossed in a book. On the basketball team, she’s the swing player and makes her shots one-handed.

“I wish we had a volleyball team and a soccer team,” she said. “I’d play both.”

The future is a distant land for 13-year-olds, but Amaryllis has plans.

“I’d like to be . . . maybe a doctor, maybe a teacher, maybe a lawyer . . . probably a lawyer,” she said.

The law might be a perfect choice, her mother added, because, “She argues about everything.”

In her valedictory address, Amaryllis offered no arguments. She reminisced a little about kindergarten, cited a few fellow students, a few teachers and thanked everyone for helping her achieve the honor.

“First of all I want to thank God for making me a better person,” she said.

“My family for supporting me – but also putting up with me –

my teachers for showing me what I need to learn and my classmates for pushing me to have some fun when I really didn’t want to.

“I just want to thank every

teacher in the past and also everybody else who helped me reach this point.

“So, thank you.”

Gap continued from page 1

the altercation, Sellers filed a criminal complaint and Kaitlan Head was ticketed for a Class C misdemeanor assault and told to appear before a Justice of the Peace later this summer.

From there, said Head, the threats of disciplinary action increased. Head was accused of aggravated assault, he said, then of making terroristic threats to another student (other than Sellers) and was told she would be arrested if she set foot on campus or attended any school-related event.

Finally, he said, she was informed by Sigler that – if she did not attend DAEP classes – she would not be allowed to graduate, a move that would have ended scholarships she had already applied and been approved for.

“My daughter’s never been in any trouble all the time she was in school,” said Head. “Now, within days, she went from being homecoming queen, valedictorian and all-around good person to something evil.

“What she did was wrong and I’m not saying she shouldn’t have been punished, but this was ridiculous.

“And they weren’t doing anything to the other girl.”

Head filed a grievance and was told by Sigler that it would be taken up at the board’s next scheduled meeting on Friday, June 1, a date that would have fallen after graduation and after the period in which Kaitlan Head was ordered to attend DAEP.

Head responded by retaining attorney John Cullar of Waco and, after hearing from Cullar, the board agreed to hear Head’s case in the called meeting on Friday, May 25.

At the outset of that meeting, Board President Kenney Wiese attempted to close the session, despite Charles Head’s assertions that he desired that it be open. After hearing an objection from Cullar and being told by the *Bosque County News* that the paper would file a complaint for violation of open meetings laws, Wiese conferred with the board’s attorney and agreed to open the session.

During the meeting, Cullar argued that because the charge against Kaitlan Head was filed only as a Class C misdemeanor by the Bosque County Sheriff’s Office, under both state guidelines and the Cranfills Gap ISD’s own policy, the girl qualified for a three-day suspension and nothing more.

Sigler and, by proxy, the school

board would be violating both state and school policy if they invoked harsher punishment, said Cullar.

“Kaitlan Head has learned the consequences of violating the rules,” said Cullar. “This board needs to learn the consequences as well.”

The board, however, voted to “uphold” Sigler’s actions, requiring the girl to attend DAEP classes and preventing her from participating in graduation exercises, but not to revoke her valedictorian status or withhold her diploma.

In reality, however, Head has never attended a DAEP class, nor will she. Because she is allowed 10 absences under school policy and has none on her record, she will not participate in the disciplinary classes and her absence will not be counted against her, said her father.

“It’s a blow and it’s cost us, but it’s better than it was going to be,” said Charles Head.

The strange series of events comes on the heels of months of strife in the district. Earlier, Sigler attempted to revoke the contract of science teacher Michelle DuBay. That failed after DuBay retained an attorney and threatened to appeal any action against her.

Sigler then tendered her resignation, effective in June, but not before students staged a walkout of classes in support of the superintendent – a move Sigler sanctioned by declaring an official “play day.”

At the heart of the discord is a rift on the board in which board member Sue Lee (Kaitlan Head’s aunt) and former members Susan Ward and Jerry Jennings were pitted against members Jeff Rose, Kathie Witte, Shelly Stuart and Wiese.

Ward and Jennings were defeated in the May 12 election, leaving Lee as the only dissident on the board. Relations between her and the rest of the board have soured that other board members and Sigler have read statements criticizing her at several recent meetings.

Friday’s meeting was no exception and began with Wiese reading a letter from board attorney Dennis Eichelbaum, citing Lee for “inappropriate behavior” for talking about board actions to others.

Lee said she believed the severity of Kaitlan Head’s punishment was due to the valedictorian’s relationship to Lee.

“It’s a direct result of that,” she said.

First Community Bank Reminders

Relay For Life
Clifton

Friday-Saturday, June 1-2

Bosque County Relay For Life will be held June 1-2 beginning at Cub Stadium in Clifton, benefiting the American Cancer Society. The survivor’s lap will begin at 7:15 p.m., followed by a caregivers lap. Teams will then continue to walk until 7 a.m. on Saturday. Food, entertainment and games will be provided throughout the evening.

Church Garage Sale
Meridian
Saturday, June 2

The First United Church of Meridian will host a garage sale on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 8 a.m. Among the items for sale are two antique cane chairs and other furniture, clothes and items. The sale benefits the Kids’ K’loset, a mission outreach benefiting children of Bosque County. In case of rain, the sale will be rescheduled.

Annual Clean-Up Day
Morgan
Saturday, June 2

The City of Morgan is hosting its Annual Clean-Up Day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, at the water tower. Batteries and tires will be accepted, but appliances with freon will not be accepted. For more information, call Morgan City Hall, 435-2106.

First Community Bank will be closed Monday May 28th for Memorial Day.

Check fraud costs banks and their customers millions of dollars each year. As part of a statewide effort to combat crime we participate in the “Thumbprint Signature Program” Help us send a clear message to criminals that check fraud will not be tolerated!



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