FROM THE FRONT

VFW

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they call VPRs.

“That’s going out into the community and speaking anywhere people gather,” Horn described Veteran Peer Network talks.

He fulfills the VPR mission with occasional forays into Cattleman’s Cigar Co. downtown, offering 10-minute VPRs on historic timelines.

Horn credits recruitment success to the post acknowledging it’s not its grandfather’s VFW anymore.

Veterans of Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan have overtaken their brothers and sisters from previous wars in pure numbers and want more than fellowship with fellow fighters.

“All those people work nine-to-five, and they have families,” Horn said. “So I’ve got to make the VFW family-friendly.”

Halloween trunk-or-treats, events that add water slides and a Sept. 11-12 chili cook-off, a qualifier for the prestigious Terlingua Chili Cook-Off near Big Bend, are now the orders of the day.

“We are getting younger,” the commander said. “It’s a slippery slope. you’ve got to recruit those younger veterans, but you’ve got to maintain the older vets. We’ve been doing retention and recruiting at the same time. and so far, we’re doing a really good job of doing that.”

The internal mission is balanced by outreaches to Parker County.

“Part of the mission of the VFW is to work with the community, to be part of the community, to make it better than when you found it,” he said. “We’re constantly doing steak nights, doing barbecues there. There’s always something going on at the VFW.”

The post sponsors student writing contests in Weatherford and Peaster ISDs, under the titles, “Voice of Democracy” and “Patriot’s Pen.”

Local winners of the student competition can advance to state and national berths.

“We’re always looking to work with the Boy Scouts,” Horn added. “We have Scout of the year, and also Teacher of the year.”

The post now works in partnership with the local American Legion Parker County Post No 163.

The recruitment, too, never ends.

“So, everybody in Weatherford, Peaster and this area knows there’s a VFW out there,” he said. “And everybody’s welcome.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Article 152.013 Local Government Code, Palo Pinto County Commissioners’ Court will consider the following salaries for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026. These salaries will be set at the budget adoption proceedings during the regular session of Commissioners’ Court on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in the courthouse in Palo Pinto.

	SALARY	INCREASE	INCREASE	SALARY
DISTRICT JUDGE				
JUVENILE BOARD	$7,200			$7,200
COUNTY SUPPLEMENT	$17,800			$17,800
COUNTY JUDGE	$91,978	$6,159	$104	$98,241
JUVENILE BOARD	$7,200			$7,200
STATE SUPPLEMENT	$34,650			$34,650
COUNTY CLERK	$83,961	$6,486	$104	$90,551
DISTRICK CLERK	$83,961	$4,302	$104	$88,367
COUNTY ATTORNEY	$73,537	$4,404	$104	$78,045
STATE SUPPLEMENT	$96,250			$96,250
COUNTY TREASURER	$83,961	$5,862	$104	$89,927
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR	$83,961	$4,302	$104	$88,367
SHERIFF	$91,978	$5,223	$104	$97,305
COMMISSIONERS’ COURT:				
PRECINCT #1	$83,961	$4,406	$104	$88,471
PRECINCT #2	$83,961	$6,486	$104	$90,551
PRECINCT #3	$83,961	$4,510	$104	$88,575
PRECINCT #4	$83,961	$6,174	$104	$90,239
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:				
PRECINCT #1	$77,337	$7,403	$104	$84,844
PRECINCT #2	$52,228	$10,786	$104	$63,178
PRECINCT #3	$59,377	$4,945	$104	$64,626
PRECINCT #4	$59,377	$3,073	$104	$62,554
PRECINCT #5	$77,337	$5,739	$104	$83,180
CONSTABLES:				
PRECINCT #1	$72,824	$5,825	$104	$78,753
PRECINCT #2	$72,824	$5,409	$104	$78,337
PRECINCT #3	$72,824	$3,953	$104	$76,881
PRECINCT #4	$72,824	$4,577	$104	$77,505
PRECINCT #5	$72,824	$4,577	$104	$77,505

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

Weatherford Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., August 24, 2026 at Board Room, DSB, 1100 Longhorn Drive in Weatherford, Texas. **This meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate the school district will adopt. The school district invites public participation in the discussion.**

The tax rate the school district ultimately adopts at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax $ .7552 /$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters $ .1790 /$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding discal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax yea ris indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations		% (increase)	or	(.70)	% (decrease)
Debt service		% (increase)	or	(54.34)	% (decrease)
Total expenditures		% (increase)	or	(8.15)	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	$ 11,410,331,216	$ 11,869,714,217
Total appraised value* of new property**	$ 276,105,146	$ 217,385,828
Total taxable value*** of all property	$ 8,114,569,850	$ 8,414,302,912
Total taxable value*** of new property**	$ 276,105,146	$ 217,385,828

* Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8)
** New property is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17)
*** Taxable value is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10)

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* $ 51,982,928

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance and Operations	Interest and Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	$ .7552	$ .2790	$ 1.0342	$ 10,027	$ 4,239
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	$ .72540	$ .16211*	$ .88751	$ 9,934	$ 3,522
Proposed Rate	$ .7552	$ .1790*	$ .93420	$ 9,545	$ 3,660

* The interest and sinking fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	$ 359,701	$ 356,020
Average Taxable Value of Residences	$ 248,715	$ 220,672
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per $100 Value	$ 1.0342	$ .9342
Taxes Due on Average Residence	$ 2,575.21	$ 2,061.52
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		$ (510.69)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person age 65 or older or their surviving spouse, if the surviving spouse was age 55 or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is .954071 . This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of .954071 .

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) $ 20,844,244
Interest and Sinking Fund Balance(s) $ 6,234,832

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

PPC

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go from reserve accounts into a capital improvements fund to pay for several projects.

Those include a drive-through for the Courthouse Annex in Mineral Wells.

The Aug. 24 public hearing on the budget will be at 9 a.m. in the Palo Pinto courthouse.

As part of the budget workshop Monday, commissioners set the tax revenue percentages each will draw for their individual road and bridge funds.

Precincts 1-4, respectively, will take 20%, 29%, 26% and 25%.

The percentages align with the percentage of the county’s roads each precinct contains, respectively 75.2 miles, 123.6 miles, 111.2 miles and 104.2 miles.

The court also renewed the $10 local charge on license renewals for road and bridge funding.

BURN BAN

Commissioners on Monday also kept the countywide burn ban in effect, also declaring Phase 2 drought restrictions.

Those mostly apply to outdoor welding, which is barred in the open when winds reach 20mph but allowed under a barrier until winds hit 30mph.

Long added combustibles, such as lit cigarettes, are not allowed in the open under Phase 2 restrictions.

Anyone welding in the open must demonstrate sufficient water is at hand and carry a cell phone. A “dedicated fire watch person” must accompany each welder, under the restrictions.

EMS GRANT

The court on Monday also approved joining the new state Rural Ambulance Service g rant program.

The multi-entity program under a 2025 state law brings a $350,000 grant to help fund ambulance services in Mineral Wells, and Emergency Service Districts 1 and 2.

Long said the San-to-based ESD2 receives the biggest share of the state grant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of $0.100000 per $100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of ESD #6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	$0.100000 per $100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	$0.093242 per $100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	$0.093242 per $100
DE MINIMIS RATE	$0.107487 per $100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for ESD #6 from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that ESD #6 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for ESD #6 exceeds the voter-approval rate for ESD #6.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for ESD #6, the rate that will raise $500,000, and the current debt rate for ESD #6.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that ESD #6 is proposing to
increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 24, 2026 AT 06:30
PM AT 6300 GRANBURY HWY, WEATHERFORD, TX 76087.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If ESD #6 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the ESD #6 may petition the ESD #6 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the ESD #6 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the ESD #6.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal:	TOM HUFFHINES RICK DALTON	TIM LEWELLING
AGAINST the proposal:	DONNA TILLMAN	
PRESENT and not voting:		
ABSENT:	SCOTT HARRISON	

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by ESD #6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by ESD #6 this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per $100 of value)	$0.096000	$0.100000	increase of 0.004000 per $100, or 4.17%
Average homestead taxable value	$332,837	$345,075	increase of 3.68%
Tax on average homestead	$319.52	$345.07	increase of $25.55, or 8.00%
Total tax levy on all properties	$1,758,480	$1,934,739	increase of $176,259, or 10.02%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for ESD #6 at 817-594-5500 or NWELLS@PCESD6.ORG, or visit WWW.PCESD6.ORG for more information.