

CITY TO DRILL WELL

Bullard council accepts bid to tap into water at Oakhurst

By Lori Thomason
Bullard Banner News

While Bullard leaders are diligently searching for alternative water sources and storage, there's some confusion - it seems - regarding the exact plans.

Last month, Troup and Whitehouse officials met to discuss possible negotiations to buy water from Lake Striker, about 21 miles southeast of Troup, near New Summerfield.

But Bullard took no part in those talks, as was reported in other media.

"It just wouldn't be geographically or financially feasible," said City Manager Larry Morgan. "And while water is our first priority, we have to be realistic and smart with taxpayer money."

Morgan said that transporting water from Lake Striker to Bullard would require a lot of infrastructure and a lot of money.

"If we chose to do that, we would also need to build - or at least help build - a water treatment

"The prices have changed dramatically since they looked at it. I knew it wasn't a realistic price, and that's why we were not prepared to commit to something that could ultimately cost the taxpayers a lot of money."

-- A.W. Hines
Mayor Pro Tem
on water solutions and Lake Columbia

plant," Morgan said. In addition, the lake is more than 20 miles southeast of Troup - making it even further from Bullard.

"I admire what these guys are doing," Morgan said. "But while we are all hurting for water, this isn't really an option for us."

Morgan said his council has other, firm plans. At a special-called meeting on Oct. 30, the

council OK'd a bid to drill a test well, which, if successful, would mean a lot more water availability to Bullard consumers.

The test well is near Oakhurst golf course, with the written permission of landowner Dan Hurst.

Russell Drilling Company, located in Nacogdoches, was awarded the bid - which

should cost the city about \$600,000. Unlike other Bullard wells, this one should go about 1,500 feet.

City engineer Bryan Capps said the well would be able to pump about 1,000 gallons a minute. The company will begin drilling as soon as it finishes a nearby well for Southern Utilities.

"If the well they're working on produces, I recommend we go with them," he told the council. "In the long run it will help us out with the cost, since they agreed to a lower bid with the equipment so close."

Capps said it should take about two months for drilling, samples and permits.

Brook Hill founder Steve Dement is helping out, too. He's donated land that's near perfect - as far as its elevation - for an overhead storage tank - one that's capable of holding large reserves of water without relying on electricity as much as ground storage does.

"The generosity of Brook Hill and Mr. Dement will save us several hundred thousand

See WELL, Page 12

Veteran's Observances



Top row, from left, are servicemen from military branches represented at the Veterans Presentation. Second row, from left, Robert E. Layton, Jr. (Navy), Robert M. Rownd IV (Army), Port A. DuBose (Army Air Corps), Verde Eargle (Army air Corps), Wayne Dement (Army), Joseph Gresham (Army), Ted Walters (Army Air Corps), Lewis Shaw (Navy), Marion Ziober (Navy), Victor Siebert (Marines), Hunter Mapes (student) accepted medals in honor of his deceased great grandfather - William Jernigan - (Navy), Congressman Louie Gohmert, Front row, from left, W. T. Lowthorp (Marines), R.B. Wofford (Army), James Humphries (Navy), D. J. Clements (Navy), Alfred Gebhart (Navy).

BHS and Brook Hill celebrate military

By Lori Thomason
Bullard Banner News

BHS

Honor and gratitude: those were the words stressed by former serviceman and current pastor Donnie Barron at Bullard High School's Veterans Day program.

Barron, preacher for Bullard Southern Baptist Church, addressed the assembly at the school Friday, telling students to honor those who served and expressing gratitude to those servicemen in attendance.

As the program began, Band Director Gary Jordan led the band in a medley of songs for each branch of the military. As the music was played, veterans stood in honor of their respective branches.

Veterans spanned from World War II to Desert Storm.

The event was a solemn one, with Barron reminding students what the holiday is about.

"Because of the sacrifice of these and others like them, we enjoy the fruits of liberty,"

See BULLARD, Page 12

By Lori Thomason
Bullard Banner News

BROOK HILL

Newly re-elected Congressman Louie Gohmert didn't rest much last week. Following a late night watching election results, the District 1 representative took time to speak to Brook Hill students and community members about veterans, service and the "greatest generation."

As Gohmert introduced, he demurred from the cheering crowd.

"It needs to be me clapping for you," he said. "It's all of you who allow me to serve."

But more importantly, he said, the veterans' stories must be passed on to a new generation, commending Dement for making that happen.

"In World War I, we were pulled in by evil. In World War II, we were pulled in reluctantly, and with every battle since, America has helped ensure evil cannot prevail," he said.

See GOHMERT, Page 12



The US Navy Sea Cadet Corps perform throughout the Veterans Day ceremony, held Friday at Bullard High School.

Brookshires named one of the 'best' employers

Staff Reports

Brookshire Grocery Company was named one of the 60 best companies to work for in Texas. This is the second year the company has been recognized.

Best Companies Group, in conjunction with the publishers of "Texas Monthly," the Texas Association of Business (TAB), and the Texas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (TSC-SHRM), announce the winners in the second annual "60 Best Companies to Work for in Texas" competition.

The program is a multi-year initiative to motivate companies in the state to focus, measure, and move their workplace environments towards excellence.

The selection process, conducted by Best Companies Group, is based on an assessment of the company's employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey.

The Assessment Findings Report that all participating companies receive will enable them to develop plans and implement steps necessary to create a great workplace and continue to improve the performance of their business.

The actual rankings will be published in a special advertising section in the February 2007 issue of "Texas Monthly" and the ranked companies will be recognized at a gala awards luncheon on Jan 31 at the Capitol Marriott in Austin.

Numerous studies show a strong correlation between profitability and creating a good place to work.

The "60 Best Companies to Work for in Texas" initiative is similar to the famous "Fortune" magazine list.

In addition to the positive effect the award has on their employee morale, employee relations and recruitment, the driving force for companies to join in this program is the remarkable effect that workplace improvements can have on their bottom line.

The goal of "Best Companies to Work for in Texas" is to raise the bar among the state's employers and create excellence and employee satisfaction in the workplace that will attract talented people for years to come.

This initiative is integral for Texas to compete in both national and global arenas.

Further details about the "Best Companies to Work for in Texas" initiative can be found online at www.BestCompaniesTX.com.

Open and see 'Pandora and the Magic Box'

The story of Pandora and the box of troubles can be traced back into the depths of Greek religion and mythology.

This "stage magic" play was based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story, "The Paradise of Children." Hawthorne's story begins with a description of mankind at the very beginning of time.

Only children peopled the world. There were no parents because parents weren't needed.

The chief function of parents,

Brag-Brag

Bobby Woodruff

Hawthorne implies, was to keep children out of trouble. At the beginning of the world there was no trouble to be kept out of.

All the troubles were locked tightly in the magic box.

In this play we see the world's first frown, the world's first anger, the world's first argument, the world's first selfishness, the first pout, the first pain,

the first tears and the first unhappiness.

Thus evolved modern men and women, Hawthorne seems to say. Why, then, in this world that man has ruined.

Why doesn't man destroy himself? Why struggle to stay alive?

The answer comes at the end of the play.

If you haven't yet seen it, we won't spoil it for you.

Come see the free production of "Pandora And The Magic Box" on Friday, Dec. 15, 2006 at 7 p.m. at

Bullard Middle School.

Cast and crew:

Prologue.....Emily Hayes
Quicksilver.....Cullen Hippler
Pandora.....Ashley White
Epimetheus.....Josh Maple
Sorrow.....Elizabeth Miles
Greed.....McKenna McWhirter
Anxiety.....Lauren Alexander
Bad Luck.....Autumn Sutliff
Disease.....Jessica Alexander
Hope.....Carly Sigler
1st Prince.....Nick Gilley
2nd Prince.....Chandler Clark

3rd Prince.....Dirk Eberhardt
Children.....Caitlyn Carnes;
Christine Wilson; Nick Gilley; Dirk Eberhardt; Chandler Clark; and Emily Hayes.

Crew: Weston Gray; Courtnie Willborne; Paige Kirby
Director: Melinda Tefteller

■
Bobby Woodruff is a school administrator for BISSD. He also sells real estate for Bullard Properties. You may reach him via e-mail to Jackw690943@aol.com