

State plan details water supply strategies

Water loss reduction projects recommended in Marshall, Waskom, Jefferson

BY JORDAN GREEN
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Texas water planners are proposing that local governments in North-east Texas undertake \$1.7 billion in strategies to in-crease water supplies and reduce water loss by 2080. State water planners also are calling for great-er protection of an East Texas bayou and stream

and holding back — for now — on construction of a controversial Northeast Texas reservoir. The Texas Water De-velopment Board has re-leased the first phase of its 2027 water plan, the document that will guide the state’s water supply planning for the next five years. The \$174 billion plan contains more than 3,000 strategies meant to provide millions more

acre-feet of water to sup-ply the state’s growing population in the coming decades. The planners at the wa-ter development board are tasked with ensuring that the state has enough wa-ter to meet future needs, which will be crucial in the decades to come. Texas’ population is anticipated to grow from 34.2 million in 2030 to 52.3 million in 2080, and its wa-

ter usage is projected to increase from nearly 17.4 million acre-feet in 2030 to nearly 18.4 million acre-feet per year in 2080, ac-cording to the plan. But at the same time, the state’s existing wa-ter supplies are expected to shrink from 15.5 mil-lion acre-feet in 2030 to 14 million acre-feet by 2080. That’s primarily because

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The site of a water main break is seen in March on Spring Street in Marshall. (Robin Y. Richardson/News Messenger photo)

‘A BEAUTIFUL EVENT’

City of Waskom and Waskom ISD team for back-to-school giveaway event

BY ROBIN Y. RICHARDSON
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WASKOM – The city of Waskom and Waskom ISD celebrated a new school year recently with a backpack giveaway, free haircuts and more. The Friday event kicked off at Waskom Taylor Park with a ribbon-cutting cere-mony for a new splash pad feature dedicated to siblings and Waskom ISD students Isaac and Hector “Cesar” Pedraza, who died in a December house fire. Thanking the city of Waskom, the siblings’ parents, Hector and Elizabeth Pedraza, noted how heartwarming it was to see the splash pad feature featuring a foot-ball engraved with their sons’ names. “They loved to play football,” their parents said. The siblings’ aunt, Bianca Ramirez Pedraza, said the family appreci-ates the city for honor-ing the boys in such a special way. “It’s so wonderful,” Pedraza said. “We’re very appreciative of all

of the community and everybody that’s been there with us through this hard journey.” Following the rib-bon-cutting and dedica-tion, the back-to-school bash continued with giveaways. “At the community center, we have haircuts set up and are giving out school supplies. The school was able to get a grant and cover most of the supplies for all the children in the school this year,” said Waskom Mayor Keith Slone. “So we had extra things like that through donations from the community. “ The giveaways took place inside of the Was-kom Community Center across from the activities at Waskom Taylor Park. During the event, free haircuts were also of-fered courtesy of partic-ipating hairdressers and barbers Viviana Agundiz and Blazing Blades. A local dentist office also was onsite dis-tributing hygiene kits, Waskom ISD staff helped students with registra-tion. “Everybody’s repre-sented from town,” Slone

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Hector and Elizabeth Pedraza attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 31 at Waskom Taylor Park for a new splash pad feature dedicated in memory of their sons, Isaac and Hector “Cesar” Pedraza, who died in December. (Contributed photo)

Tax-free shopping is today through Sunday

News Messenger Staff

Texas families can shop without paying sales taxes during this year’s sales tax holiday, which takes place today, Saturday and Sun-day. The holiday gives fami-lies a chance to save money on school supplies, cloth-ing and more. People can purchase most types of clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced less than \$100, according to the Texas Comptroller’s Of-fice. Certain sanitizers and sanitary wipes are tax-free year-round. A full list of tax-free items is available at texas-taxholiday.org. Sales tax exemptions ap-ply whether shoppers buy items in stores, online, by telephone or by mail, ac-cording to the comptrol-ler’s office. If a retailer mistakenly charges sales tax on a qual-ifying item, customers may request a refund directly from the seller. For more

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy. A high of 96, and a low of 73.



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Hallsville hosts youth softball camp. Page 1B



East Texas native to lead Lady Dawgs volleyball. Page 1B



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