

Waco Tribune-Herald

HAAG: Central Texas football teams brought the chaos, B1



Some US college campuses welcome students' dogs, cats, C1

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Making new friends at Labor Day Festival



ABOVE: A petting zoo featured plenty of goats, dogs and even a longhorn steer at the Homestead Heritage Labor Day Festival held Saturday and Monday. It was just one of many attractions at the local craft village's annual holiday weekend event, including a market, horseback rides, hay slide, music, food and other activities. See more photos on **Page A4**.

RIGHT: Homestead dropped the traditional Sorghum Festival name this year, instead calling its annual weekend celebration the Labor Day Festival.

ROD AYDELOTTE PHOTOS, TRIBUNE-HERALD



WISD lowers tax rate, OKs new budget

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Waco taxpayers could see a drop in their school district taxes this year after trustees approved a lower tax rate Thursday for the upcoming year.

Trustees voted to set the tax rate at \$1.027 cents per \$100 of property value, a decrease of about 2.2 cents per \$100 from last year's rate.

The rate, the highest under state law the district could assess without triggering an election for voter approval, will fund a \$168.9 million budget. State funding, buoyed by money for teacher raises, will provide \$90.8 million or about 56.2% of revenue with local taxes supplying about 40%.

Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Davis told the Waco Independent School District board the budget is based on an estimated districtwide student attendance of 11,502, which determines much of state funding, and the district's taxable property valuation of \$8.4 billion.

An increase in the general school homestead exemption and the exemption for taxpayers 65 and older led, in part, to a dip in taxable value from last year, even though the district's overall appraised value has increased, Davis

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China, Russia, India show unity

HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press

TIANJIN, China — China plans to accelerate the creation of a development bank and set up an international platform for energy cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Monday at a summit that represents an emerging challenge to U.S. global leadership with the participation of Russia and India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the leaders meeting in Tianjin, in northern China, for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The security forum was originally seen as a foil to U.S. influence in Central Asia and has grown in size and influence over the years.

Xi is attempting to expand the scope of the SCO. He announced initial plans

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Bears need someone to step up after DE Marshall injury, B1

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