

Waco Tribune-Herald

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Aranda's new
open approach
makes a lot
of sense

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Week 1 rewind:
Huge morale-
boosting wins
for Centex
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Tuesday, September 1, 2026

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KEEPING PETS SAFE FROM SCREW WORM



ROD AYDELOTTE, TRIBUNE-HERALD

Ed Brown takes Thunder outside for some exercise Monday at the Pet Circle Regional Animal Center. Brown has volunteered at various Waco-area animal shelters for 12 years.

Waco shelter gets medication donation; few new cases seen statewide

BY CHRISTOPHER DE LOS SANTOS
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The Waco animal shelter is receiving a donation of almost \$600,000 in medication to prevent and treat New World screw worm infestations in cats and dogs.

The Waco City Council accepted the donation to the Pet Circle Regional Animal Center in early August from the Bissell Pet Foundation, part of the foundation's screw worm mitigation plan that includes distributing the medication to animal shelters in Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico. The city has received doses of the medication for cats, with similar medication for dogs on the way.

The donation includes 16,000 NexGard Combo doses for cats and 16,000 NexGard doses for dogs, which received emergency

use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration earlier this year for use against screw worm infestations. In addition to screw worm, the medication for dogs also prevents fleas and ticks, and the medication for cats also prevents fleas, ticks, heartworms and digestive worms.

"This generous donation gives us greater peace of mind knowing animals in our care are better protected if New World screw worm moves closer to McLennan County," said Melissa Sheldon, Pet Circle's director of animal services. "Through our existing partnership with a local low-cost veterinary clinic, we can also extend that protection to at-risk pets in the community through a screening process.

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Woodway passes on Flock cameras

Robinson council set to vote
on renewing its system

BY CHRISTOPHER DE LOS SANTOS
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Woodway has decided against installing automated license plate reader cameras, while the Robinson City Council is scheduled to vote Tuesday on renewing its contract with Flock Safety to continue using the devices another year.

"Our city staff has received community input that heavily impacted the decision to not pursue the cameras," Woodway Mayor Amine Qourzal said Monday.

City Manager Adam Niolet and Public Safety Director Khalil El-Halabi during budget discussions in mid-August decided against proposing any funding to install Flock cameras, Qourzal said. They notified city council members of the decision to give them the opportunity to put a Flock system up for formal consideration, but none wanted to pursue one, he said. The city plans to finalize its 2027 budget in a Monday evening meeting, with no funding for Flock cameras.

Qourzal announced the decision publicly Thursday, the same day Gov. Greg Abbott directed state agencies to halt funding for Flock cameras, according to The Texas Tribune.

Public pushback against automated license plate readers has accelerated over privacy and misuse concerns, with much of the scrutiny directed at Flock, though other companies offer similar systems. Flock cameras placed along roadways are used to compare license plates and characteristics of passing vehicles against law enforcement databases, and can generate alerts for stolen vehicles or those associated with warrants, missing-person alerts or investigations. Flock also maintains data from agencies' systems nationwide that law enforcement officials can use to review vehicles' past movements.

Woodway received "lots of negative feedback" around the cameras, and El-Halabi warned him the city could face backlash from residents if it installed them, Niolet said.

Residents came to the police department to voice concerns and spoke against the technology to the city council, El-Halabi said.

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■ **More Coverage:** \$1 state fee paid for thousands of Flock cameras, see **Page A3**.

ELECTION 2026

Nearly 30,000 locally on 'suspense' list

BY CARL HOOVER
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Nearly one out of every five registered McLennan County voters is on a voter registration "suspense" list, meaning they need to update their registration information, but they are not at risk of becoming ineligible to vote in the November general election.

The McLennan County Elections Office reports 28,674 of the

county's 160,748 registered voters are on the suspense list, primarily because a registration card sent to an address was returned as undelivered.

"It happens pretty regularly ... it sounds like a lot, but actually is very typical," county Elections Administrator Jared Goldsmith said.

The county elections office sends out cards to registered voters

every two years so voters can check if their information is correct. The suspense list is created from cards returned as undelivered, usually because the voter has changed addresses.

Those still on the suspense list at the time of the election can vote, but they have to fill out a statement of residence form with their correct information and many voters do that, Goldsmith said. That

statement isn't the same as a provisional ballot, he added.

Using a statement of residence form will let people who moved within McLennan County vote in all races, according to reporting by Votebeat. During early voting, those who moved from another county can likely vote using a limited ballot, which includes only

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Comparing
candidates'
education
priorities

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