

# Title hunt ends

Robinson softball loses, 11-1, in Class 4A regional finals/Page 1C



# Briles is back

Mount Vernon ISD hires fired BU football coach/Page 1C



# Waco Tribune-Herald

Saturday, May 25, 2019 ■ \$2.00

In God we trust



Sunny ■ High: 90 ■ Low: 70

## McLennan County to take over Harwell jail

By KRISTIN HOPPA  
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McLennan County is planning to start running the Jack Harwell Detention Center in October, after the jail's for-profit operator decided not to renew its contract.

LaSalle Corrections CFO Tim Kurpiewski notified the county in a letter Thursday.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to work with McLennan County over the last six years and will do everything we can to

help the county transition the facility to the sheriff and his staff," Kurpiewski wrote.

County officials have been publicly discussing whether to have the sheriff's office take over operation of the jail since the county's annual cost to hire LaSalle increased last year from about \$6 million to about \$8 million. The jail also failed its last three state inspections, and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards issued a remedial order against Harwell earlier this month.

McLennan County Sheriff's

Office Capt. Ricky Armstrong presented estimates to commissioners in September showing the county could save as much as \$1 million in annual operating costs by taking over control of the jail. Budget estimates presented to commissioners in a closed meeting earlier this week have not been made public.

Armstrong serves as administrator of the McLennan County Jail, which is operated by the sheriff's office and shares a kitchen with Harwell. The county built the Harwell facility to

serve as an overflow jail, using proceeds from a \$49 million bond package issued in 2009. Harwell has been operated by for-profit companies since it opened in 2010, and LaSalle has run it since 2013. The companies' ability to turn a profit has depended on the number of federal inmates the jail has been hired to house.

McLennan County Judge Scott Felton said the job the sheriff's office has done at the McLennan County Jail bodes well for Harwell.

"I've got tremendous amount

of confidence in the sheriff and his team, specifically Capt. Armstrong and his team, and I think they will take care of the facility and keep the costs down," Felton said. "I don't think compliance will be an issue as we've had a lot of inspections and we've passed every time since I've been here in 2012."

Chief Deputy David Kilcrease said the county will work with LaSalle for a smooth transition and will bring Harwell

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## Vietnam vets honored



Associated Press — Andrew Harnik

President Donald Trump and Attorney General William Barr shake hands.

## Trump expands Barr's power over probe info

By ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has granted Attorney General William Barr new powers to review and potentially release classified information related to the origins of the Russia investigation, a move aimed at accelerating Barr's inquiry into whether U.S. officials improperly surveilled Trump's 2016 campaign.

Trump on Thursday directed the U.S. intelligence community to "quickly and fully cooperate" with Barr's investigation of the origins of the multiyear probe of whether his campaign colluded with Russia.

Former intelligence officials and Democratic lawmakers criticized Trump's move, which marked an escalation in his efforts to "investigate the investigators" as he works to undermine the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe. Trump's announcement came amid mounting Democratic calls to bring impeachment proceedings against him.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that Trump is delegating to Barr the "full and complete authority" to declassify documents relating to the probe, which would ease his efforts to review the sensitive intelligence underpinnings of the investigation. Such a move could create fresh tensions within the FBI and other intelligence agencies, which have historically resisted such demands.

Trump is giving Barr a new tool in his investigation, empowering him to unilaterally unseal documents that the Justice Department has historically regarded as among its most highly secret. Warrants obtained from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, for instance, are not made public — not even to the person on whom the surveillance was authorized.

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**ABOVE:** The Heart of Texas Young Marines present the colors during an annual ceremony at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial on University Parks Drive. **LEFT:** Gene Lednicki with the Heart of Texas Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1012 reads names of soldiers who have died. The ceremony was focused on locals who died during Vietnam or since Memorial Day last year.

Staff photos — Jerry Larson

## City of Waco renting goats for riverside landscaping test

By TOMMY WITHERSPOON  
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Parents of fussy eaters might want to wander over to the Brazos River this weekend to find inspiration for their finicky children. There will be some kids there who will eat anything.

The Waco Parks and Recreation Department has hired Rent-A-Ruminant

to provide a test run for a goat landscaping program starting Saturday afternoon from a sloped area deemed too treacherous for city workers to access.

The 3-year-old company, which has franchises in Texas, Louisiana, Washington and Tennessee, will bring about 120 goats to Waco from its Texas operation in Rising Star to chow down along a

three-quarter-acre strip on University Parks Drive between Waco Drive and Bosque Boulevard.

Terry Carr, of Rent-A-Ruminant Texas, said it could take his goats five or six days to clear the unwanted vegetation from the area behind the Parks and Recreation office building at 201 W. Waco Drive.

"The goats have a strong

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The city of Waco has hired Rent-A-Ruminant, a goat landscaping business, to clear vegetation along University Parks Drive between Waco Drive and Bosque Boulevard. The goats are scheduled to start their work Saturday.

Staff photo — Rod Aydelotte



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