

Ruhl

FROM PAGE 1

garden, and landscaping around our house.

What quality about yourself do you feel would make you a good trustee?

RUHL: Since being elected to the school board in 2017, we have made many changes which have benefited our staff and community. We have been able to enhance the salaries of our employees, which has had an impact on our retention and recruitment ability. This in turn stabilized our loss of veteran teachers and led to an improved learning environment for our students. We have also been able to maintain and enhance our facilities even in the face of limited funds through judicious use of our resources which in the short and long term saves everyone money.

What is the most important issue facing the school district? And what ideas do you have to address that issue.

RUHL: Currently, our most pressing issue is the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. All of us at VISD, from the board, to the administration, faculty and support staff have gone over and above to keep our District running as smooth as possible, especially in the light of limited guidance and operating restrictions placed on us by the State. We continue to be as responsive as we can in order to provide a safe learning environment for all parties concerned.

Are there other issues you feel are important, or ideas you have for the district?

RUHL: On November 3rd, I would appreciate your continued support as we work to provide our students the best education and learning environment in these difficult times.

Thomas

FROM PAGE 1

Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University in San Antonio, Texas in 1999. Thomas hobbies include reading (studying) the Bible, travelling, fishing and playing dominoes. He has a 12-year-old son, Nathan Lynn Thomas.

What quality about yourself do you feel would make you a good commissioner?

I believe that I have four distinct traits that qualify me to be a very good commissioner. A. Christ centered; B. Committed; C. Competent; D. Challenger for Change. The one that I feel will make me a good Commissioner is Committed! I am involved in many aspects of the Vernon, Texas Community! I'm dedicated to helping people.

What is the most important issue facing the city? And what ideas do you have to address that issue.

There are several major issues that the City of Vernon is facing, from the repairing of the main water line, re-modeling and repairing of the sewage plant, COVID-19 and its health and financial impact on the city...

However, I believe that Vernon's citizens are extremely resilient! Resiliency will overcome all of the aforementioned issues. Resiliency is facilitated through Unity and is achieved largely through Equality. We get the best results out of people, when everyone feels like they're a viable part of the team, and are given affirmation and accolades, attesting to their accomplishments.

The action starts with leadership. Breaking through the status quo, and looking for Excellence beyond the normal perspective. Once we Discover Excellence, we reward it! Excellence comes in all shapes and forms of people, to include: race, sex, age, and/or political affiliation. We have to create the environment that encourages Excellence to manifest. Vernon has to blend in order to survive! If e want to attract robust business, to boost our community, to increase our longevity and viability, we have to come together! Division Destroys!

Are there other issues you feel are important, or ideas you have for the city?

My greatest desire for Vernon is to see us work together, to become unified People that God has crested us to be! Understanding that Unity doesn't mean Uniformity, and that's what it will take to, "Make Vernon better than Ever."

Parmer

FROM PAGE 1

customers, good people, from both sides of issues. One of my best attributes is that I am a good listener and I will look at both sides of an issue.

What is the most important issue facing the city? And what ideas do you have to address that issue.

A few years ago, the most important issue was the water situation. The commission has done a good job with that. A few years ago the budget was a problem, Marty and the Mayor and the commission have done a good job getting a handle on that. Downtown has been a problem, but Main Street program has improved it and a still has work to do. Overall beautification of Vernon is an issue. I'd like to see Vernon cleaned up and be more presentable.

Are there other issues you feel are important, or ideas you have for the city?

There has been the issue with the statue and stuff like that. I went to the community meeting at the Booker T Washington Center. I like to hear different points of view. There were two protests at the courthouse and the protest march. But I am proud of how Vernon acted and handled those things. It makes me proud to live in Vernon. One thing Vernon has going for it is it is a conservative community where people can peacefully voice different opinions, unlike in the big cities like Dallas.

Hawkins

FROM PAGE 1

serve on the board for St. Paul School and actively participate with the Youth and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

I am employed by Wilbarger General Hospital as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations. I am Vice President of the Meals on Wheels Board of Directors, serve on the United Fund, am a member of Lions Club and the Wilbarger County Humane Society.

I am an avid reader, yoga instructor, and enjoy spending time with my family and traveling whenever possible.

What quality about yourself do you feel would make you a good trustee?

HAWKINS: I pride myself on being straightforward, a hard worker, and a good listener. I am a savvy problem solver and like to find creative solutions to meet the needs of those I serve.

I think I would make a good trustee because I will listen what parents and VISD staff have to say and act on issues that need addressing. I am vested in this community and I am proud to be a lifelong Vernon Lion. I recognize that an excellent education system is a cornerstone to growth and prosperity in our community along with a thriving business community, skilled workforce, and quality healthcare system.

VISD gave me a solid foundation and the tools I needed to be successful. If I can contribute to giving our students the same high-quality education I received, I am ready and eager to serve.

What is the most important issue facing the school district? And what ideas do you have to address that issue.

HAWKINS: One of the issues that stands out to me most is the out-migration of students to other area districts. After visiting with many parents and teachers about this issue, I understand that there are several contributing factors that need to be addressed.

The way to solve any issue is to listen to what people have to say and take the knowledge we gain from that to find solutions. If we truly listen to the concerns of our parents, students, and teachers, we can collaborate to develop a plan to overcome any issues they have and keep students in our district that might otherwise leave. If elected, I will keep my door open to anyone who has a need or concern in regard our local schools.

Are there other issues you feel are important, or ideas you have for the district?

HAWKINS: Communication is key to succeeding. Listening to each other and keeping the community informed as to what is happening in our district are critical to the achievement of our teachers and students. I have been so impressed at the effort our teachers and administrators at Central Elementary have made to keep parents up to speed on what is happening in the classroom this year. That is the kind of communication that sets our students up to accomplish their goals!

Our children also need a safe place where they feel they belong. For many, school may be their refuge. We have some very talented educators who go above and beyond to make every child feel important and valued. All kids deserve to know that their worth is not determined by the score on a test or the price tag on their shoes; that their talents and gifts are valued and appreciated. The teachers who had the most impact on me growing up are the ones who made sure I knew they believed in me even when I did not meet expectations. This is where we have the greatest opportunity for positive impact.

Lastly, I believe our kids are growing up in a very different world than we did, and their needs are changing. We must evolve to meet those needs. Whether it be addressing mental health, cyber bullying, internet safety, proper etiquette, balancing a checkbook, etc. Unfortunately, these things are not addressed at home for many kids. I believe it is imperative we add life skills to curriculums whenever possible. It is our responsibility to ensure that students, whether they choose higher education, trade school, or to enter the workforce upon graduation, are prepared. The ultimate goal is for them to become part of a strong and skilled workforce, make good decisions, serve for the betterment of our society, and to become the very best versions of themselves. And of course, to be proud to call themselves Vernon Lions!

Sample Ballots

Vote Both Sides / Vote en Ambos Lados de la Página

General Election ELECCIÓN GENERAL

Wilbarger County
Condado DE Wilbarger
November 03, 2020 - 3 de noviembre de 2020

Precinct Precincto PCT 21 GEN-ONLY

Ballot Instructions: Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your choices on the ballot. To vote for a write-in candidate, completely fill in the box provided to the left of the words "Write-In" and write in the name of the candidate on the line provided.

United States Representative, District 13
Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 13

Ronny Jackson REP
 Gus Trujillo DEM
 Jack B. Westbrook LIB

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 4
Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 4

Kevin Patrick Yeary REP
 Tina Clinton DEM

Railroad Commissioner
Comisionado de Ferrocarriles

James "Jim" Wright REP
 Chrysta Castañeda DEM
 Matt Sterrett LIB
 Katija "Kat" Gruene GRN

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 9
Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 9

David Newell REP
 Brandon Birmingham DEM

Member, State Board of Education, District 15
Miembro de la Junta Estatal de Educacion Publica, Distrito Num. 15

Jay Johnson REP
 John Betancourt DEM

State Senator, District 28
Senador Estatal, Distrito Núm. 28

Charles Perry REP

State Representative District 68
Representante Estatal, Distrito Num. 68

Drew Springer REP
 Patsy Ledbetter DEM

Chief Justice, Supreme Court
Juez Presidente, Corte Suprema

Nathan Hecht REP
 Amy Clark Meachum DEM
 Mark Ash LIB

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6 - Unexpired Term
Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 6, Duración Restante del Cargo

Jane Bland REP
 Kathy Cheng DEM

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7
Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Num. 7

Jeff Boyd REP
 Staci Williams DEM
 William Bryan Strange III LIB

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8
Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Num. 8

Brett Busby REP
 Gisela D. Triana DEM
 Tom Oxford LIB

District Attorney, 46th Judicial District
Fiscal del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Núm. 46

Staley Heatly DEM

County Attorney
Fiscal del Condado

Cornell D. "Cory" Curtis REP

President and Vice President
Presidencia/Vicepresidencia

Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence REP
 Joseph R. Biden/Kamala D. Harris DEM
 Jo Jorgensen/Jeremy "Spike" Cohen LIB
 Howie Hawkins/Angela Walker GRN
 Write In Voto Escrito

United States Senator
Senador de los Estados Unidos

John Cornyn REP
 Mary "MJ" Hegar DEM
 Kerry Douglas McKennon LIB
 David B. Collins GRN
 Write In Voto Escrito

LEFT -- Wilbarger County voters will all receive the same first page of their ballot.

BELOW -- These are two of the four possible second pages that a voter can receive based on precinct. The other two ballot versions do not include a county commissioner on the ballot.

In addition voters in the Vernon City limits will receive a ballot for city commissioner, and voters in VISD will receive a ballot for school trustee.

Vote Both Sides

Wilbarger County
Condado DE Wilbarger
November 03, 2020 - 3 de noviembre de 2020

Sheriff
Sherife

Brian Fritze REP

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Asesor-Colector de Impuestos del Condado

Sherrie Campsey REP

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Comisionado del Condado, Precinto Núm. 3

Scott English REP

County Constable, Precinct 2
Agente de policia, Precinto Núm. 2

Paul Miller REP

Vote Both Sides

Wilbarger County
Condado DE Wilbarger
November 03, 2020 - 3 de noviembre de 2020

Sheriff
Sherife

Brian Fritze REP

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Asesor-Colector de Impuestos del Condado

Sherrie Campsey REP

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Comisionado del Condado, Precinto Núm. 1

Billy D. Taylor REP

County Constable, Precinct 1
Agente de policia, Precinto Núm. 1

James (Jim) Rogers REP