and thicken the nectar into honey. The honey is then stored in the honeycomb cells.

Butler starts harvesting and extracting honey in mid-May or June.

The season typically ends in July or August, depending on how high temperatures rise.

Nature's busy little workers can produce 30 to 60 pounds of honey per hive.

"Last year, we made roughly 40,000 pounds of honey, and we'll usually range somewhere between 15,000 and 40,000 pounds," Butler said. "A big part of honey production is not just rainfall but timeliness of the rains."

When the honey is harvested and taken back to the shop to begin the extraction process, Butler will strip the honeycomb frames and remove the wax cap.

The uncapped frames allow the honey to move freely when they are placed inside a centrifugal extractor. The machine will rotate the frames, throwing the honey from the frames and into a reservoir at the middle of the extractor.

The honey goes through a strainer, removing any remaining wax and other particles from the gold liquid. Then, the honey is pumped into 55-gallon barrel drums where the honey is stored before being bottled, labeled and sold.

Sweet rewards

Seeing families enjoying the sweet taste of summer with honey is the reason Walker Honey Farm takes pride in beekeeping.

"There's something very cathartic and relaxing about interacting and being a part of a natural cycle and aiding the bees in their process of producing honey," Butler said. "Being stung isn't fun, and it gets hot in the summer when we're harvesting, but being out in nature is very calming."

The work may be difficult, but they have a passion for beekeeping and sharing that with others.

"People love honey. It holds a special place for a lot of different people, but to be able to relate and see customers face to face that are buying your products is wonderful," Butler said. "It's great being able to directly interact with your customers and educate them on the ins and outs of beekeeping."

On This Day in Texas History August 16, 1828

On this day in 1828, John McMullen and James McGloin received a contract from the Mexican government authorizing the two to introduce 200 families to an assigned territory along the left bank of the Nueces River. The Irish-born empresarios went to New York in the summer of 1829 to recruit colonists, principally new immigrants. Thev Irish accompanied the first group of Irish colonists from New York to Texas on the Albion and the New Packet in October 1829. In October 1831 the colonists laid out a town on the east bank of the Nueces, which they called San Patricio de Hibernia (St. Patrick of Ireland). The original contract was considered suspended by the Law of April 6, 1830, but in 1834 the empresarios secured a four-year extension, and by the outbreak of the Texas Revolution a total of eighty-four titles had been issued.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The		Si	terling (City ISD					_ will h	nold a public
meeting at	7pm on	August 2	6,	i	n <u>th</u>	e Sterling Ci	ty Admiı	nistration E	Building a	t 700 7th Street
Sterling City, Texas 76951 The purpose of this meeting is to discuss t							ss the school			
district's budget th				-				-		
discussion is invite	d.									
The tax rate that is ult proposed rate shown comparisons set out b	below unless	the dist	trict p	ublishes a r	evise	d notice c	ontaini	ing the s		
Maintenance	Тах	\$ <u>.</u> 7	355	/\$100 (Pro	pose	d rate for r	maintei	nance an	d operat	tions)
School Debt S Approved by	Service Tax Local Voters	\$	0	/\$100 (pro	pose	ed rate to p	bay bon	ded inde	btedne	ss)
	Comparis	on of P	ropos	ed Budget	t wit	h Last Yea	ar's Bu	<u>dget</u>		
The applicable per year and the amore of the following ex	unt budgeted f	or the fis								5
Maintenanc	e and operatio	ns	1	% increas	e c	r		% (decre	ase)	
Debt service	2			% increas	e c	or1(00	% (decre	ase)	
Total expense	ditures		1	% increas	e c	r		% (decre	ase)	
(as calculated un Total appraised value* of all property Total appraised value* of new property** Total taxable value*** of all property Total taxable value*** of new property**				\$ \$ \$	Preceding Tax Year Current Tax Year \$ 1,004,862,879 \$ 1,079,552,797 \$ 78,305,969 \$ 2,672,499 \$ 984,047,204 \$ 1,059,017,468 \$ 78,299,369 \$ 2,046,159					
** "New property" is	is the amount sho defined by Tax Coo defined by Tax Coo	de Sectior	1 26.012		ned b	y Tax Code Se	ection 1.0	04(8).		
			Bonc	led Indebt	edne	255				
Total amour	nt of outstandir	ng and u	npaid	bonded ind	ebteo	dness* \$		735,00	0	
* Outstanding princip	al.									
	Compar	ison of	Prop	osed Rates	s wit	h Last Yea	ar's Ra	tes		
	Mainter <u>& Opera</u>			nterest <u>king Fund</u> *		<u>lotal</u>	Local Revenue <u>Per Student</u>		State Revenue <u>Per Student</u>	
Last Year's Rate	\$.7380	\$.2398 *	\$.97780	\$	23,058	\$	409
Rate to Maintain S Level of Mainte Operations Rev Pay Debt Servic	nance & enue &	.76167	Ś	0 *	Ś	.76167	Ś	15,624	Ś	34
-				-						
Proposed Rate	\$.73550	\$	0 *	\$.73550	\$	14,912	\$	706

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

<u>Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence</u>								
	Last	Year	This Year					
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	81,143	\$	118,468				
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	21,870	\$	23,798				
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$.9778	\$.7855				
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	213.84	\$	237.46				
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes			Ś	23.62				

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at

an election is _______.7355______. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a

rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of ______.7355

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$ 7,002,903

\$

1,043,014

Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.