Water insecurity is widespread in rural communities throughout the United States. Often, low-income families living in these isolated, difficult to reach areas cannot afford to pay for public water supplies or extending public water supplies to their properties doesn’t make economic sense.

Such was the case for the Salazar family who live in Bulverde, Texas, near San Antonio. Luis and Nancy and their two children had been living in their home for 24 years without their own water supply. For more than two decades, the Salazars made do with sharing water from the well located on the neighboring property owned by Nancy’s parents. “My parents have been gracious, but they have their limits,” said Nancy.

Because of the shared well’s low yield, the Salazars could not wash their cars or plant a garden. Even the idea of a long, hot shower was a luxury.

“I’ve never known what it’s like to have really good water pressure,” said Nissi Salazar. “I’ve never known what it’s like to take a nice hot shower. Like a really nice hot...”

See Water Well Project, page 8

By SUSAN O’GRADY, Xylem Inc.
As most of the membership is aware, the TGWA Annual Convention is scheduled January 21-24, 2020 at the Embassy Suites in Frisco, Texas. The 2019 convention featured the first TGWA Geoscience Seminar focusing on the Trinity Aquifer of Central Texas. The TGWA will offer the second Geoscience Seminar at Frisco for the 2020 Convention. Many thanks are owed to the efforts of GWS Board Member Stephen Bond, the TGWA Staff and other GWS Board Members. In keeping with the new convention location in the DFW area, the seminar will cover subject matter related to the Northern Segment of the Trinity Aquifer and will be held from 8 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, January 21. All groundwater professionals are encouraged to attend the seminar and the convention. Based on the reviews from attendees at last year’s seminar and the standing room only attendance, it may be wise for groundwater professionals and interested parties to register early.

Attendees to the seminar and all TGWA members and potential members are also invited to attend the open Ground Water Science Division Board Meeting at the convention on Wednesday, January 22nd from 11am to 11:45 pm. Following the GWS Division meeting the Continuing Education

Greetings, everyone! Hope each of you are doing well. It’s hard to believe we are already coming to the close of 2019. Cold and wet weather has begun to set in which can be a challenge for our industry. But as in life, seasons come and go. Final preparations have been made for the 2020 Convention in Frisco. We have some good things planned and there will be something for everyone. Please make every effort to attend. We’ve added some new C.E. classes for you to get your hours and on the fun side we’ve added a Topgolf outing for Thursday night. This should be interesting especially for us that don’t play golf. Fortunately, there will also be options for those who don’t play golf. I’m looking forward to having a great time and some laughs I’m sure. If you’ve never been to our convention now is a good time to give it a try. I think you will enjoy it. This year has been a blur, and I can’t believe my term as President is approaching its halfway point. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It has been an honor on my part. I want to thank our staff for helping me find my way through this. These people are amazing. They work very hard for you. Dean will be retiring at the end of this year and I want to thank him for his help and wish him the best in whatever he continues to do.

My term as the M&S Division president is quickly coming to an end as I write this final letter. In reflection what a year it has been, filled with challenges, successes, and even a failure or two. It has been an honor to have worked with the TGWA and all its members. This has been a year of change as we broke away from San Marcos for the annual convention, tried some new board meeting arrangements, and put together new social and entertainment events.

With our 2020 annual convention not being where we have become comfortable, we will embark into Frisco. Change can be scary, exciting, but the one thing I have come to understand is that it is inevitable. It is rarely as bad as one fears and sometimes not as great as one hopes, but regardless it is a journey - one that must be walked. Together, we can embrace the excitement and look for the positives with the venue change.

Not only will we be in a new city this year, but we have modified the program slightly. With no four-man golf scramble (we are looking into host one later in the year) or Freiheit’s we needed to focus our entertainment thoughts elsewhere. Topgolf provided us with just that opportunity in an exciting setting. Being a golfer is not required. In fact, if you don’t want to golf at
**Charmed by Texas**

On a recent Thursday, I found myself in line at the DMV in need of replacing my lost driver’s license. A sweet, elderly gentleman relocating to Texas from Illinois providentially sat beside me, unaware his idle small-talk inquiry was about to open a big box of Texas love on him - free of charge!

“It appears to me that Texans have a love affair with all things Texas, including the shape of your large state, my friend. I’m moving here to be closer to my daughter - now that I’m in the winter season of my life, and I’ve seen more things in the shape of Texas since I’ve been here than I can count! Her neighbor has a Texas purse, the local mall already has a Christmas tree adorned solely in Texas ornaments, and I’ve seen Texas waffle irons, cookie cutters, and jewelry on almost everyone. You Texans really love to display the iconic shape of your state everywhere, don’t you?” I paused briefly (because I could almost feel Mike begging me not to respond), but being a Daughter of the Republic of Texas and a true lover of The Friendship State, I felt it was my due diligence to stay and introduce Mr. Hughes to just a few things that make The Lone Star State shine so brightly.

“Well, you have to admit, the outline of Texas is instantly recognizable amid the other forty-nine states, not to mention locales the whole globe over. In fact, it’s likely the most distinguishable of all the delineated lands on earth, by a long shot. Second place probably goes to the boot of Italy. The identical Dakota twins, who can tell them apart, right?” Mr. Hughes chuckled, and I knew I had opened a brief window to win him over before he was called to take his driver’s license picture for the state he’d now call home. I started with music. Texas has produced some of the world’s best music and musicians: few states have as rich a musical history as Texas – many nations can’t compare! Selena, Beyoncé, George Jones, Waylon Jennings, George Strait, Lyle Lovett, ZZ Top, Janis Joplin, Buddy Holly, Willie Nelson - whose fans include the most out there “keeping it weird” Austin dreamer to the most born-again Baptist in our state. I kept trying to think of people he might know, but names like Usher and Janelle Monáe kept coming out until I remembered Charlie Pride, Bob Wills, and Kris Kristofferson. There are so many more; past and present, Texans have some pipes.

The stunning ecological diversity of our state, from the arid canyons of Big Bend to the shadowy forest of the Big Thicket is beautiful. Watching families in their Sunday best taking pictures in fields of bluebonnets off highway 6 still warms my heart. Bat colonies in Austin and Houston, the Frio River on a scorching summer day, (there’s a reason they call it the Frio), and sunrises over the Gulf of Mexico are awesome. Schlitterbahn is one of the greatest waterparks in America, and it makes excellent use of its Hill Country surroundings, and The Gruene Dance Hall on a Saturday night, where it doesn’t seem like the 21st century at all, are all places you need to see. Strolling around the Buckhorn Museum in San Antonio is worth your time, too. To drive across Texas is to drive 1/3 the way across the United States, and you can see ocean beaches, deserts, lakes and rivers, mountains and prairies, and modern cities. You’ll find huge herds of cattle, beautiful horses, and miles of ocean beaches, deserts, lakes and rivers, mountains and prairies, and modern cities. You’ll find huge herds of cattle, beautiful horses, and miles of

*Please see Pyburn, page 7*
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

Noon-5PM Exhibit Set-Up
Room TBD

8AM-5PM TGWA Northern Trinity
Geoscience Seminar
Room TBD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

8:30AM-2PM Exhibit Set-Up
Room TBD

9AM-5PM TGWA Registration
Room TBD

10:15AM-11AM M&S Board/General Membership Meeting
Room TBD

11AM-11:45AM GWS Board/General Membership Meeting
Room TBD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

9:30AM-3PM Activity TBD
Room TBD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

8AM-8:30AM C&D Board/General Membership Meeting
Room TBD

8:30AM-11AM Exhibits Open - (1 hour of C.E. Credit)
Room TBD

9AM-5PM TGWA Registration
Room TBD
Convention Highlights: Get Ready!
There is so much to do during the TGWA Annual Convention. From talking business to having fun, there is something for everyone!

NEW: TGWA Northern Trinity Geoscience Seminar

8AM - 5PM
Tuesday | January 21

Professional Geoscientist continuing education hours will be provided. Members attending both the convention and the seminar will receive a $50 discount! Lunch will be provided. Interested participants can sign up on the general convention registration form.

Topgolf Social Event
6:30PM
Thursday | January 23

This year, the golf and bowling events are combined into one. You must register even if you don’t plan on playing golf. Register on our website.

Don’t miss the TGWA Scholarship Auction!

Wednesday, January 22
6:00PM - 9:00PM

TGWA Merchandise Available for Purchase

Buy before January 5, 2020 to pick up your order at the convention.

The TGWA Women’s Division is raising funds for the scholarship foundation in an awesome way. Merchandise ranging from t-shirts, vests, caps, and more will be available for purchase before the show in Frisco. The link is on the website.
Second Annual TGWA Geoscience Seminar
Northern Segment of The Trinity Aquifer
8-5 on Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Prospective presentations from:
- Baylor University
- Northern Trinity GCD
- North Texas GCD
- Upper Trinity GCD
- INTERA, Inc.
- Tarrant Regional Water District
- *Fancher Legal (*one hour of ethics)

Lunch will be provided.

Member Rate $175
Non-Member Rate $225

Up to 8 hours of continuing education credits will be available for P.E.s and P.G.s.

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Tell each of our staff how much you appreciate them when you get the chance. And my dear friend Julie Pyburn for leading the women’s division during my term. You are a God sent lady. Thank you. As we slide into the holiday season, I hope each of you had a wonderful Happy Thanksgiving. I’d like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And remember there is ALWAYS something to be thankful for. God bless each of you. Be safe and we’ll see you in Frisco in 2020.

Sincerely,

Terry Lowe

of crops. Texas is home to the world-famous King Ranch, and I’ve seen sunsets of gold sewn over empty fields that have literally left me speechless.

Texans can cook, too. Tex-Mex is high on the list. It has many purposes, all of them delicious, and if you like oysters, the cheapest and best ones in the world are plentiful from the Gulf. Kolaches: You will never find better ones than you’ll find here. You are never very far from a Whataburger, and Texas is known for some of the best chicken fried steak and Bar-B-Q anywhere. Blue Bell ice cream and the way Texans are fiercely loyal to it is a real emotion, and I can’t leave out our state being the home of Dr Pepper!

Lots of great Texans know how to work hard in their chosen field. Nolan Ryan, my all-time favorite baseball player, is a personal friend from my hometown in Texas, and is someone who unites Houston, Dallas and Austin. Earl Campbell was a legend in Austin and Houston and shows every bit of what it took to become one. It’s impressive that three of our

all, there will be separate space for socializing and sharing our experiences of the past year.

Another exciting and challenging task that has been undertaken in 2019 is a review and modification of the continuing education course(s) and schedule. Through learning, our future as well as that of our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, becomes brighter. With concerted effort and bringing meaningful topics that can help pave the way for the future of the water well Industry will continue bright.

I would be remiss not to mention that in 2019 the TGWA Scholarship Foundation issued a record number of awards (28!), further expanding the influence of the industry and allowing us to provide these benefits. The scholarship fund continues to grow and get closer to the foundation’s goal of being self-sustaining.

There are many more challenges that the organization faces, and the work will continue. This is why I choose to focus on moving forward rather than reflecting back. I would like to thank Dean, Stacey, Adeline, Lisa, and Becky for all of their tireless efforts, assistance, and support. The board members and committees for picking up the torch and challenging the status quo. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with this great organization and most importantly thanks to the incredible individuals who make up this association. I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Pyburn, continued from page 3

Hill, continued from page 2

Tarver, continued from page 2

classes for driller’s and pump installers begins at noon. The “Meet and Greet with Exhibitors” offers a chance to meet with manufactures, suppliers and vendors in the convention Hall from 3 pm to 6 pm. For social activities there is the well-known TGWA Scholarship Auction on Wednesday night and Topgolf on Thursday night.

The TWGA and the GWS division encourage geologists, engineers and other groundwater professionals to attend as much of the convention as you can. Many state of Texas professional geoscientists and professional engineers also utilize the classes offered on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to apply for their annual continuing education requirements.

The continuing education classes beginning on Wednesday are approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to fulfill the continuing education requirements for drillers and pump installers. The TDLR required “Water Well Drillers/Pump Installers” one-hour class is offered everyday during the convention to give contractors that can only attend one day an opportunity to fulfill their “Rules” CE credits for the year.

In summary, for anyone interested in the groundwater industry and groundwater science in the state of Texas, the TGWA Annual Convention in Frisco is the place to be January 21 to 24, 2020.

Sincerely,
In July 2019, a crew from the drilling contractor assessed the Salazar property and identified the best location for the well. Geology and underground water levels ultimately dictated the need for a 500-foot well.

Along with product donations secured by the pump distributor, the equipment manufacturer provided the well pump, control box and holding tank for the project and supported the WWT with a $5,000 grant through its corporate citizenship program.

The well was outfitted with a 7GPM 1-1/2 HP 4” submersible pump, a control box and an 83.5 gallon tank. Crews also laid down more than 400 feet of new piping and 500 feet of new electrical wiring. To prevent damage to the motor and pump, a pump protection unit was installed to protect against dry well conditions, low and high voltage, over and under current, rapid cycling, dead-heading and jammed impeller.

A Cost-Effective Alternative

Overall, with assistance from WWT and the equipment manufacturer, as well as donations of products and services, the final project cost came in around $6,500. In contrast, hooking up to the closest public water supply would have cost nearly $85,000.

“This project is a perfect example of why the Water Supply Costs Savings Act is so important,” said Margaret Martens, Executive Director, WWT. Signed into law in 2016, the act aims to reduce local, state and federal costs of providing high-quality drinking water to millions of Americans in rural communities by increasing the use of cost-effective alternatives such as water well systems.

Making A Lasting Impact

Following the installation of the new well system, more than 35 volunteers joined together to clean up the Salazar’s yard. The cleanup effort involved hauling away scrap metal and bringing other debris to the local dump during a record heat wave with temperatures hovering around 100 degrees. The crew also built a coop for the family’s flock of chickens, which had previously roamed free range, making it difficult to collect eggs.

After spending five days helping the Salazar family, project volunteers left with a strong sense of fulfillment having shared their skills and expertise to help a deserving family while building relationships and making a meaningful impact on the community.

The Salazar family is beyond grateful to have access to safe, clean water on their property for the first time ever. “Water is a freedom; freedom and independence,” said Nancy.

Now the Salazars are paying it forward. In October, the family attended a Water Systems Council meeting where Nissi addressed a large audience to help raise awareness and funding for the Water Well Trust. The event raised $250,000 to help provide water wells for Americans in need of safe drinking water.

SUSAN O’GRADY is Director of Marketing at Xylem Inc. and has more than 20 years of experience in the residential and agriculture pump market. She consistently works to make a positive impact on the water quality industry through Watermark, Xylem’s corporate citizen program. O’Grady holds degrees from Pepperdine University and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.
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last nine presidents hail from Texas, and just FYI - Texas has no state income tax. The Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo draws farm kids and their animals to Reliant Park and some of the biggest concerts of the year. Scholarships and leadership lessons earned and learned there, give way to many successful careers. You have a better chance of running into an astronaut in Texas than in any other state. Chuck Norris is from Texas - he doesn’t sleep; he waits. And he’s a Texas Ranger! Dr. Michael DeBakey, Carol Burnett, and so many more talented and smart people call Texas home.

I explained to Mr. Hughes I may be prouder than most in our state because my great, great uncle, Andrew Kent, was one of the 183 men who died at the Alamo, and my great, great grandfather, Andrew Alonzo Zumwalt, fought in the Battle of San Jacinto where Texas won its independence from Mexico. Because Texas was first a republic before it became a state, we can fly our state flag at the same height as the U.S. flag. We have named many of our schools after men who fought and died for Texas’ freedom because we consider those men heroes. (John Wayne even paid to do the movie The Alamo himself.) That is the Spirit of Texas! Plus, when you say you’re from Texas, no one in the world needs to ask where that is.

The shape of Texas, in addition to being something we celebrate, has become something that celebrates us. It has, over the years, become our brand, a logo that perfectly symbolizes that big, bold, sometimes brash and, well, distinctive Texanness of everyone living within the 3,822 miles of straight and squiggly lines that make up its boundaries. No other state can make that claim, and that’s why you’ve never seen a purse in the shape of Illinois or tortilla chips that look like Ohio or waffles in the shape of Kentucky.

One of the DMV employees called Mr. Hughes about a minute after I finished my Texas monologue. He laughed, patted me on the leg and said, “Well, I guess it’s a good thing I got here when I did!” As my newest friend walked away he turned back briefly and said, “I have to admit, Texans are incredibly charming when you brag about your state!”

I didn’t have the heart to tell him his new driver’s license was going to say Texas, but it was going to resemble the shape of Wyoming. ;)

Note: The TGWA Women’s Division James Avery Charm for the 2019 TGWA Convention will proudly be the State Seal of Texas.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The TGWA Women’s Division is raising funds for the scholarship foundation in an awesome way. Merchandise ranging from t-shirts, vests, caps, and more will be available for purchase before the show in Frisco. The link is on the website.
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Tell me a little bit about yourself.

I grew up in Rowena and still work there today. My wife, Tiffany, and I raise our family about 40 miles away in the small town of Blackwell. We have been blessed with two daughters, Cambrey and Caitlin. Last December we also gained a son-in-law, Doug, who works with me in the industry. A great joy for us has been opening our home to exchange students. We have four bonus kids. Carola from Italy, Christina from Denmark, Jonathan from Germany, and Mickey from Thailand who lives with us currently. When I'm not on a drilling rig or fixing a pump, I can usually be found in a gym or stadium wearing green and cheering on the Hornets.

How did you first get involved in the groundwater industry?

In 1949 my grandpa built a cable tool rig and decided to try to make a living drilling water wells, 20 years later Lange Drilling was established. Later my dad and uncle joined him in the business.

When I was a kid, I can remember following Grandpa step for step when he would witch. I thought it was the coolest thing. Finally, when I was maybe 10 or so, he let me try it for myself. He bet me I couldn’t do it. After he lost about $30 on several different holes he finally quit betting me. I still love to witch, although 10 years old was probably the last time I took any money for it.

My love for this industry just grew from there. I grew up around the shop, in a pump truck and sometimes even out with dad on the rig. I really can’t remember a time in my life where I ever wanted to do anything but this. Groundwater really just feels like a part of who I am.

A long time ago I read a quote by Clarence Kelland that said, “My father didn’t tell me how to live, he lived, and let me watch him do it.” I can definitely say this is true in my life. If you’d spent many days with us over the last 30 years you’d know we don’t say a lot, but everything I’ve learned about work ethic, integrity, going when you can’t go any more, treating people right and just being a nice person I learned by watching my dad.

What is your favorite part about working in this industry?

One hundred percent the people. I get to meet and often build long term relationships with some of the nicest, most interesting people. It’s really neat to hear the history of their land, learn about their families, see their wildlife/livestock, find out what they are interested in, just get to know them. I like that what I do is slow enough paced that I still have time to genuinely engage with people. I think sometimes we miss out on that today.

First grade career day was probably the last time I will ever see one of my girls wearing a Lange Drilling uniform (which is quite all right), but I have really enjoyed them being my evening and weekend “workhands” over the years. My dad heart swells just a little when a customer is completely surprised by what my daughters know how to do. As they’ve gotten older we’ve seen those skills translate into many other areas of their lives.

In 2017, Tiffany and I had the opportunity to take our youth group to the border of Costa Rica and Nicaragua to help bring sustainable water to a remote village. It was one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences of my life. It was also incredibly eye-opening to how fortunate we are in America - not just to have clean water readily available, but as contractors to have access to the tools and supplies we need to provide our customers with that resource. If the “rig” breaks down there, it can take weeks to months to get a part. Drilling supplies are in short supply in that area and are often very expensive to bring in. In fact, we all traveled with a 1 gallon bucket of drill pipe lube (Thanks, Jet Lube!!) in our suitcase because it is so difficult for them to get it through customs without having to pay kickbacks to government workers.

Why is it important to get involved with groups like TGWA?

TGWA is one big family. It is a group of people that sincerely want what is best for each other, for the resource and for the industry. While the continuing education hours and resources provided by the association are second to none,
it’s the camaraderie that makes this group truly unique. On more occasions than I can count, we have looked to another TGWA member for assistance or vice versa. We share tools, equipment, knowledge, customer referrals, and more. We also share deep and sincere friendships. We know each other’s spouses and kids. We celebrate special occasions together and hurt together when those times come too.

**How would you encourage other people to get involved?**

Just show up. One of the great things about TGWA is that there is a place for everybody. It really is come as you are. If you want to get involved, really JUST SHOW UP. Then when you get there, meet somebody. Shake a hand, say hello, introduce yourself. If you can’t find any better options, find me. I’d love to visit with you. We’re kind of like Cheers. We probably won’t remember your name, but we’ll definitely be glad you came!

**NGWA Groundwater Week Recap**

*by ADELINE FOX, TGWA*

The National Ground Water Association’s recent Groundwater Week in Las Vegas attracted about 4,700 attendees from across the nation and world.

The first day of the conference kicked off with a keynote address by Patricia Mulroy who previously served as general manager of the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. She shared lessons learned from managing precious water resources in the desert. Later that afternoon, TGWA’s Adeline Fox spoke on a panel called “Take My Job” that highlighted the work of the association along with panelists from other groundwater professions.

Wednesday kicked off with award presentations and a keynote address by Jim “The Rookie” Morris who was the inspiration for the 2002 Disney movie *The Rookie* starring Dennis Quaid. Austin Pump & Supply’s Ryan Arnett received the Supplier of the Year award. Congrats, Ryan! That evening, NGWA state affiliates met for the annual delegate meeting.

Texas had strong representation filling 42 of 42 delegate seats. We appreciate all who served as a delegate. Other highlights included the exhibit hall which showcased 275 different entities and the *Water Wells in Texas* book, created by the TGWA Women’s Division, displayed in the convention book store.

The national show highlighted the latest advances in the groundwater industry and provided great networking opportunities. We look forward to representing Texas again next year.
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Happy Holidays
FROM THE TGWA STAFF
FROM L TO R: STACEY, BECKY, ADELINE, DEAN, AND LISA
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