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Lampasas Dispatch Record

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WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Aug. 25	100	72	
Aug. 26	99	72	0.03
Aug. 27	96	71	

2014 rainfall to date: 17.74 inches. Same date last year: 16.08 inches. Normal through this date: 21.29 inches.

Data from the Lampasas Municipal Airport through the National Weather Service.

BRIEFLY

Peaches

The Lampasas Kiwanis Club is offering peaches for sale to support the Lampasas Boys & Girls Club.

A 22- to 25-pound box of Mountain Gold peaches from Palisade, Colo., is \$45. Orders must be placed by Sept. 7 by calling J.W. Hutcherson at 512-556-4832 or the office of Martin Millican Cooley at 512-556-6228. Orders may be mailed to P.O. Box 333, Lampasas, TX 76750. Include name, address, phone number, number of boxes and payment.

Peaches may be picked up Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at the parking lot at the Hancock Springs Hostess House.

Night Out

The Lampasas Police Department invites the public to the 2014 National Night Out event Oct. 7 from 6-9 p.m. at the HEB parking lot.

Residents can visit with city and county officials, law enforcement officers, ambulance personnel, firefighters and other public safety officials.

Residents are asked to turn their porch lights on, lock their doors and gather at HEB for hot dogs, drinks and music.

Labor Day

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Sept. 2 edition of the Dispatch Record will appear on newsstands and in area mailboxes a day later than usual.

The Dispatch Record office will be closed Monday.

Project Grad

A meeting for Project Graduation 2015 will be Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Lampasas High School lecture hall. Interested parents are encouraged to attend.

Project Graduation is an all-night, drug- and alcohol-free event for graduating seniors which follows commencement.

Library

The Lampasas Public Library will be closed Thursday for asbestos abatement.

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PHOTO BY LISA CARNLEY

Sandy Holloman, an interventionist at Hanna Springs Elementary School, helps Emberli Lindsey out of the car on the first day of school Monday morning. Emberli is a first-grade student.

LISD opens term with fewer kids

By LISA CARNLEY
 Staff Writer

Lampasas Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Randy Hoyer said he is pleased with the start of the new school year.

He and Assistant Superintendent Nancy Yeary visited each campus and almost every elementary classroom in the district.

"Students were excited, and teachers were ready to go. It was a very successful start to the year," Hoyer said. "I attribute that significantly to the continuity of administrators, directors and management of the district. We didn't have a lot of turnover, so there was a small learning curve."

While Hoyer hoped first-day enrollment would be higher than the 3,348 that showed up Monday, he said he is not overly concerned. That figure is 16 fewer students than arrived the first day of the previous school year.

"We do have a couple of grade levels, though — first grade in particular at Hanna Springs Elementary — that are over the 22:1 student-teacher ratio," Hoyer said. "We will look across the district, and we may have to move a teacher. We will have it resolved by next week."

The superintendent said Taylor Creek Elementary School's fourth-grade classes are slightly over the 22:1 ratio (with 23 students in each section), but applying for a state waiver or getting additional help in classrooms are options.

"If money was not an issue, I would love to have each classroom at 18:1 student-teacher ratio," Hoyer said.

Numbers traditionally climb after the Labor Day holiday, he said, and the district's enrollment could increase.

The most significant loss in attendance is evident at Lampasas
See CAMPUSES, page 12A

Council approves funds for library, new city building

By DAVID LOWE
 Staff Writer

The Lampasas City Council on Monday addressed one ongoing project and one proposed construction project, as it approved expenditures for the library and a new City Council Chambers/Municipal Court building.

The council voted unanimously to pay Tyler-based Broadcast Works \$33,983 for an audio/visual system for the new council and court building -- to be built behind City Hall at the corner of Western and East Fourth streets.

The council also voted 7-0 for the city to add \$24,256 to the budget for roofing at Lampasas Public Library. Parson's Roofing is doing the work as part of general

contractor MW Hail Construction Inc.'s expansion and renovation project at the library.

In a meeting earlier this month, Library Foundation of Lampasas, Texas president Sheryl Hausmann said because of miscommunication, the initial bid from Parson's Roofing did not account for the full scope of roof work at the library. The new amount accounts for everything to be done at the library, including removal of skylights and covering of the new enclosure that used to be a courtyard at the northwest side of the building.

The Library Foundation is paying for the majority of the overall expansion and renovation costs. For the roofing portion,
See COUNCIL, page 12A

Trustees hire principal at Taylor Creek campus

Reneé Cummings accepts assignment; board OKs 2014-2015 budget, tax rate

By LISA CARNLEY
 Staff Writer

Taylor Creek Elementary School has a new principal.

The Lampasas Independent School District Board of Trustees Monday night unanimously selected Reneé Cummings to fill the post at the Kempner-area campus after the resignation of Kelly Dunn, who accepted a superintendent's post in Myersville.

Mrs. Cummings — Taylor Creek's assistant principal — was one of four candidates interviewed for the post.

She has been with the LISD for 17 years, first as a teacher at Lampasas High School before she moved to Hanna Springs Intermediate School.

Mrs. Cummings then moved to Taylor Creek as a counselor before taking the assistant principal position four years ago.

When Dunn announced his intent to resign, Mrs. Cummings said she notified Superintendent Dr. Randy Hoyer that she was interested in the position.

"Jody [Mrs. Cummings' husband] and I made a decision years ago to move back to Lampasas after college to raise our family here," she said. "This was home to both of us, and it is where we wanted to be."

Mrs. Cummings said she was working toward a principal's post in the district after completing a master's degree.

"I enjoyed my time as assistant principal, but I was ready to take the helm as principal when the vacancy occurred," she said.

"Lampasas is the perfect place for my family, and I am excited to be able to move forward in this position. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

"Taylor Creek is my home-away-from-home," Mrs. Cummings said. "I was there when the doors opened in 2009, and I hope to be here for many years to come."

Mrs. Cummings, a Lampasas High School graduate, said the LISD is a wonderful district, and she is proud to be a part of it. "I've been a Badger my whole life, and I bleed blue through and



Reneé Cummings

through."

Hoyer is happy with the board's selection, which was based on committee and administration recommendations.

"Without a doubt, we got the best applicant," the superintendent said.

Also at Monday's meeting, where board vice president Bill Brister presided in the absence of president Kirk Whitehead, a public hearing was held on the 2014-2015 budget and tax rate. Trustees later approved both
Please see TAX, page 7A

Court appoints constable

By DAVID LOWE
 Staff Writer

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court on Monday voted unanimously to appoint Forrest Spence to fill the Precinct 4 constable vacancy.

The Adamsville resident holds a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Advanced Peace Officer certification and has more than 18 years of law enforcement experience, according to his constable application letter.

Spence began his duties Tuesday for a term that will continue through 2016.

In other business, the court set a proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year tax rate of 64.889 cents per \$100 valuation. The proposed property tax rate is the same rate in effect for the current fiscal year, which will end Sept. 30.

In another matter, commissioners had a lengthy discussion -- but took no action -- about courthouse security.

Officials have considered options for increased safety measures since attorney and Municipal Court Judge Robert Gradel voiced concerns about the possibility of an armed individual attacking people in the courthouse.

Guardian Security Solutions Chief Executive Officer Ray Dunn discussed three proposals -- for a total of about \$43,367 -- from his company.

One proposal was for two metal detectors. Another suggestion was for changes to the county's security camera system, along with installation of access controls that could allow electronic locking of the south and east doors of the courthouse during an emergency.

The third proposal related to control of access to the new



PHOTO BY DAVID LOWE

Dr. David Spence pins a badge on his son, Forrest, after the younger Spence was named Precinct 4 constable.

county office building at 407 S. Pecan St.

In one proposal, Dunn suggested the county purchase two portable metal detectors -- one for the courthouse and one for the tax office at the 409 S. Pecan St. county building.

The metal detectors have a display that shows where prohibited items are on a person, and the equipment can distinguish knives and guns from coins and keys, Dunn said.

"Keys and coins should pass on through," the security company executive said. "Knives and guns will alert."

Also, Dunn said his company could install a camera outside the county judge's office, replace the two analog cameras in the district courtroom with more advanced units and use the analog cameras in the county building on Pecan Street.

Access controls on the

courthouse's south and east doors would allow them to be locked electronically if needed, Dunn said. In that case, entrance to the courthouse would be restricted to the building's west side, which is accessible to people with disabilities.

In another proposal, Dunn mentioned the possibility of a check-in system near the juvenile probation office on the west side of the 407 S. Pecan St. annex. An intercom system would allow a juvenile probation staff member to screen annex visitors before opening the door into the building, Dunn said.

County employees could enter by using either a key file or a badge, he added.

The security company official said an intercom system would allow county employees to track people who enter and leave either annex building. Dunn suggested
Please see COUNTY, page 7A

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