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Council approves funds for grass improvements at several ball fields

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

The Lampasas City Council last week approved an expenditure of \$80,325 as part of an effort to improve athletic fields around town.

The council voted unanimously to contract with Dillo Dirst Delivery and Spreading to apply top dressing -- a mixture of sand, soil and fertilizer -- at the FM 580 West Sport Complex, Gavin Garrett Soccer Complex and the Turner Baseball Complex.

Council members have said they want to make the fields better for users -- including leagues that host tournaments at the city venues.

The city has had water and soil samples taken to help develop a nutrient management plan for the fields, Parks and Recreation Department Director Micky Tower said. Dillo Dirt, Tower said,

probably is one of the best-known additives for turf management.

Tower and City Manager Finley deGraffenried said the top dressing is one part of a turf management plan that also may include aeration, irrigation, changes in grass cutting heights and regulation of activity on the athletic fields.

In another matter related to ball fields, the council voted unanimously to pay Kleensite a maximum of \$15,000 to clear brush around FM 580 East and the Turner complex. Earlier this year, the city bought about four acres to provide additional parking for the Turner sports fields.

In a report to the council, deGraffenried said paving of the parking area is planned in the spring. There may be a sidewalk to connect the parking area and the fields, the city manager added.

Kleensite recently cleared several areas around Lampasas,

including along Sulphur Creek in W.M. Brook Park and to the east. Mayor Christian Toups said he has heard numerous positive comments about the brush clearing along the creek, and he said many people have expressed interest in serving on a committee to develop and maintain hiking, biking, jogging or art trails along the creek.

"The ideas are endless," the mayor said.

Also at last week's meeting, the council voted unanimously to:

- approve the purchase of a replacement radio console for police department dispatching. The cost through Motorola Solutions is \$26,606, and a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority will pay a little more than half. Police Chief Tim Angermann thanked Fire Chief Reece Oestreich for his work on
- Please see CITY, page 12



PHOTO BY DEREK MOY

Young Eagles take flight

Pilot George Elsea explains the radio equipment to operate a non-covered plane to Trista Demorest, 7, of Copperas Cove and Tammy Martin of Lampasas. Despite delays, the Young Eagles Rally on Halloween took many children up for a flight, including 16-year-old Derek Pausewang of Goldthwaite. Derek said it was his first flight ever, and he said he has an avid interest in becoming a pilot. After flying with Sue Mulhall in her plane, Derek said he wants to get his pilot's license before he gets his driver's license.

WEATHER

Oct. 29	79	44	
Oct. 30	73	68	0.82
Oct. 31	76	58	0.65
Nov. 1	71	55	

2015 rainfall total: 23.79 inches. Same date last year: 22.63 inches. Normal through this date: 27.84 inches.

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

BRIEFLY

Lometa

Lometa United Methodist Church will hold its Awesome Autumn Stew lunch Saturday at 100 S. Second St. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stew, chili, cornbread, dessert and a drink will be served. Some baked goods also will be available for sale.

The meal has a suggested contribution of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 10.

Hunters, people of the community and visitors are all welcome.

Classic cars

Classics at the Classic will hold a classic car and truck gathering in the back parking lot of Storm's Drive-In on Saturday at 4 p.m. Those in attendance also will discuss the display of classic cars and trucks for Christmas on the Square, to be held Dec. 5.

For more information, call 512-734-5180.

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Lometa school district sees enrollment growth

By BERRI JAY-WIENECKE
Special Correspondent

When classes convened at Lometa Independent School District in August, the district was anticipating a year of diminished numbers. According to figures presented during a Lometa ISD board meeting last week, however, enrollment has rebounded to show unexpected growth.

In his monthly report, Superintendent David Rice presented the board of the district's growth. "We budgeted for an average daily attendance of 245," Rice

said. "Our first six weeks was 269. After the second six weeks, we're looking at around 289."

The news met with positive responses from the board.

"Those are numbers in the right direction," board President John Hines said.

Rice also lauded the recent accomplishments of the school's cross country teams.

"The kids did exceptionally well, and David Fisher did a heck of a job coaching them," Rice said. "The girls finished eighth as a team at regionals, and the boys finished sixth. Andrew Arellano was two seconds out

of state after a fall at the start of the race, and Ivan Jasso was six seconds out of state."

The board also addressed an issue with its new construction regarding details of the science lab. According to architect Andrew Hawkins, due to a miscommunication, the area was listed by the firm as a science lab, not a chemistry lab as the school required.

Changes to the lab will include the addition of oil and gas lines, as well as an eyewash station and safety shower. The school district will not be held responsible for the changes.

"It's not too big of a hiccup," Hawkins said. "Ordinarily we take responsibility for the cost of whatever is done additionally."

The building is progressing quickly with no damage from recent rains.

"We're putting sheet rock up and are 90 percent finished with the block on the locker side of the building," Hawkins said. "The rains did no damage, and our storm drains worked well."

Acting in the absence of Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager David Fisher, Rice reported no budget amendments. Also, all bills were

passed with Hines abstaining from the vote.

In his principal's report, Rob Moore elaborated on recent trips for high school students to the Waco STEAM Symposium, and a foray with the junior and senior girls to the Women in Technology Day at TSTI.

Moore also informed the board about upcoming dates for events at the school. The annual Harvest Festival is set for Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Lometa gymnasium. The Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Lometa gymnasium. Please see LOMETA, page 12

City restores water after break in main

After many residents were without water for a number of hours over the weekend, city crews restored service to most of Lampasas by Saturday afternoon.

As a result, a boil-water notice that had been issued for affected areas has been lifted.

At about 9:15 p.m. Friday, the city began receiving calls from residents with low or no water pressure. Crews worked throughout Friday night and at about 8:30 a.m. Saturday located a water main break on an 18-inch line just south of E.E. Jr. Ohnmeiss Drive, according to a city press release. The break caused widespread disruption of service in an area generally east of Porter Street.

In an email, City Manager Finley deGraffenried said the cause of the main break is not known completely.

"The break occurred in a drainage area," he said, "and recent rains may have contributed to moving soil and rock, thus putting additional stress on the pipe."

To restore water service, city crews manipulated valves and hydrants to "back feed" areas that previously were out of water, deGraffenried said.

At one point, city officials advised

customers to open an outside spigot for five minutes to clear domestic lines once water was restored. At this time, though, deGraffenried said residents no longer need to do that if they have been using water and not seeing discoloration.

"Folks should try and open water to all inside fixtures in the event there is still air in the lines," the city manager said.

The recently created Community Emergency Response Team was activated this weekend in response to the outage. CERT members helped distribute cases of bottled water to residents who did not have water. Also, restroom facilities at the fire station were made available. Homebound residents and individuals with special needs were advised to call the fire department or police department during the water outage.

DeGraffenried praised city staff members and volunteers for their work.

"The efforts and dedication of our utility crews, emergency crews and CERT team are to be commended," the city manager said. "I apologize for the disruption; however, our crews responded quickly and worked tirelessly to restore service within 48 hours."



November 3
Constitutional Amendment Election
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Clear Creek Baptist Church**, 3350 FM 2657 in Kempner.
- Kempner Fire Department Training Center**, 315 Pecan St. in Kempner.
- New Covenant Church**, 1604 Central Texas Expressway in Lampasas.
- Adamsville Community Center**, 174 County Road 3740 in Adamsville.
- Justice of the Peace Precinct 2&3 Office**, 200 N. Fourth St. in Lometa.

Lampasas County voters may cast their ballot today at any of these polling places. **Photo ID is required.** Seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution are on the statewide ballot.

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