



# Details released on Windsor proposal

## Letter outlines company's offer for land swap, factory expansion

By DAVID LOWE  
Staff Writer

Mayor Christian Toups recently made public a number of details about Ajinomoto Windsor Inc.'s proposed land swap to expand its Lampasas factory.

The frozen-food company's proposal, explained in a four-page letter submitted March 7 to the Lampasas City Council, involves enlarging the downtown plant to create as many as 200 new jobs.

In exchange for acquiring about two acres of undeveloped land on the south side of Campbell Park, Ajinomoto Windsor has offered to give

the city 2.33 acres adjacent to the west side of the park "and up to \$300,000 in cash for park development."

The City Council has received comments from opponents of a park land sale, as well as from residents who said they would like more information about Windsor's offer and think it could benefit Lampasas.

One of the main claims opponents have made is that the city should not sell part of Campbell Park because donors Rex and Linda Johnson intended the land gift to be used for a park. That desire, Lampasas attorney Richard Hammett told the council,

is expressed in the consideration clause of the special warranty deed the Johnsons filed when they donated the land.

Members of the Campbell family, which conveyed the property to the Johnsons so the Johnsons could give it to the city, also have said their family intended the land between Hackberry and East Second streets to be used for a park.

In response to concerns about the city possibly selling part of Campbell Park, Toups posted Ajinomoto Windsor's letter on March 10 on the Cooper Springs Nature Park. Please see WINDSOR, page 6



PHOTO BY DAVID LOWE

Ajinomoto Windsor Foods, which is considering expanding its factory to the north across Second Street, has offered to buy the old train depot property and give it to the city -- along with up to \$300,000 -- in exchange for about two acres of Campbell Park.

### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
March 14	91	50	
March 15	86	56	
March 16	78	51	

2016 rainfall total: 5.34 inches. Same date last year: 3.49 inches. Normal through this date: 5.58 inches.

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

### Inside

#### Show time

It's spring break this week, and everyone's getting into the swing of daylight saving time, so does it feel like you have more available hours in the day?

If so, Dispatch Record Editor Jim Lowe suggests you consider using some of that extra time to view the movie "Woodlawn."

For more on this sports drama -- a true story released in DVD earlier this year -- please see page 5 of today's edition.

### BRIEFLY

#### Jubilee

Lometa's 46th annual Diamondback Jubilee will be March 25-26 at Lometa Regional Park.

Action actually will begin March 24, when a special Family Night carnival will be offered from 6-10 p.m. Carnival rides also will be available March 25-26.

Rodeo activities March 25 will start at 7 p.m. with free mutton busting. The Miss Diamondback Rodeo Queen will be crowned, and a jackpot rodeo will begin at 7:30 p.m. Later, there will be a dance with music by The Rivera Brothers Band.

Activities March 26 will start at 10 a.m. with the rattlesnake display. Other events that day will include cookoffs, an Easter egg hunt and goat roping.

A more detailed story will appear in an upcoming edition.

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# County not proceeding with jail cost estimate

By DAVID LOWE  
Staff Writer

An effort to obtain an estimate on the cost of a new county jail has stalled.

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court on Monday split 2-2 on a motion to engage Austin-area firm Burns Architecture for \$40,000. County Judge Wayne Boultinghouse and Precinct 1 Commissioner Robert Vincent voted to seek the firm's services, which would have included preparation of a cost estimate and a schematic design for a potential new jail.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Jim

Lindeman and Precinct 3 Commissioner Lowell Ivey voted "no," and Precinct 4 Commissioner Mark Rainwater was absent from the meeting.

Because the five-member court did not reach a three-vote majority, the motion died.

Officials -- including Lindeman and Ivey -- said the county needs to prepare for a new, larger jail. The commissioners who voted "no," however, expressed concerns about how the county could pay for a new jail.

Ivey, for example, noted the county has only \$3,900 in a jail fund.

County Auditor Chris Munn

said the county could pay for Burns Architecture's services by drawing from the county's contingency of approximately \$80,000.

Ivey said he wants to wait so the county can save both for architectural services and for the eventual construction of a jail.

"This is the middle of the budget cycle," the commissioner said. "I just don't want to spend \$40,000 ... when we could wait awhile, we could budget that amount and have it set aside."

Lindeman said his concern is how the county would pay for a jail that might cost \$10 million or more. The county has bonds

that will not be paid off for another five years or so, he said in questioning whether it is wise to seek an estimate now.

Instead of paying for an architect's cost estimate at this point, Lindeman suggested local officials calculate the effect on the county property tax rate of a \$10 million to \$15 million jail. Lindeman said the consensus seems to be that the cost of a jail big enough to meet the county's needs would be in that range.

Munn and Sheriff David Whitis said bond counsel probably will not give county officials specific financing advice without an actual cost estimate

from an architect.

Whitis said the sheriff's office will continue to do the best it can with the existing facility. He said a new jail is "long overdue," however.

Boultinghouse also voiced concerns about delaying action toward building a new jail, which Whitis has said will be a several-year process.

Boultinghouse noted the existing jail, built in 1970, operates under several variances from Texas Commission on Jail Standards requirements.

"And all they've got to do is say 'No more variances,' and we COMMISSIONERS, page 6

# Woman's body found in Campbell Park

By DEREK MOY  
Staff Writer

The Lampasas Police Department and Texas Rangers are investigating an incident surrounding the discovery of a dead body this week in Campbell Park.

The body -- that of a 45-year-old female -- was found Tuesday by a city of Lampasas parks department employee as the park was being mowed for an upcoming event.

The individual began mowing at 1:30 p.m. and noticed

a woman lying down. When he went to check on her, she was not responsive. He called his supervisor and 911 immediately afterward.

Parks Superintendent Chris Eicher said his employee thought the woman was asleep when he went to check on her.

The area where the body was found contains a wet-weather creek near an old railroad bridge.

The woman is reported to be Caucasian. Police Investigator Sgt. Tim Ryan is handling part of the investigation,

along with Texas Ranger Marcus Cantu.

Authorities have not yet released the woman's name, as notification of her next of kin was still pending at press time Thursday afternoon.

In a news release, the police department said an autopsy to determine the manner and cause of death is being performed.

The woman is said to have lived in the area, but no further details were released by law enforcement officials, who cited the ongoing investigation.

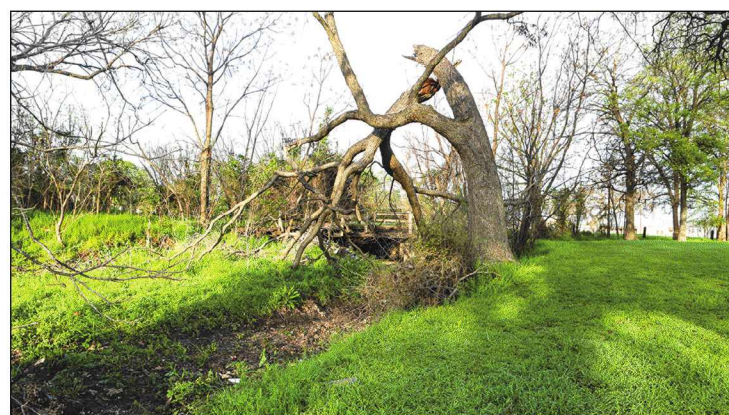


PHOTO BY DEREK MOY

A city worker who was mowing found the body of a deceased woman Tuesday in this part of Campbell Park.

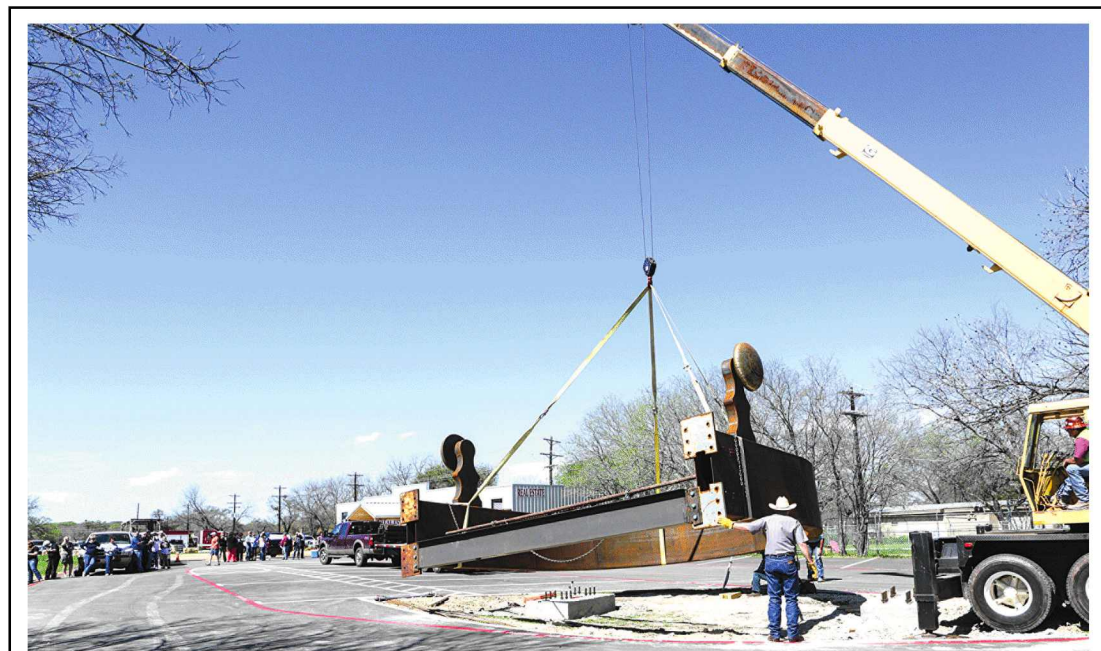


PHOTO BY DEREK MOY

### Texas-sized spur

Community members gather outside Texas Real Estate Sales and Lampasas Grooming on Monday to watch as a 10,000-pound, 35-foot-tall spur is installed in the parking lot. The spur constructed by Wayland Dobbs of Cherokee is believed to be the largest spur in the world.

# Kempner-area house damaged in fire on Wednesday

A house fire was reported on County Road 4877 near Kempner on Wednesday evening.

The Kempner Volunteer Fire Department responded, and both the Lampasas Fire Department and Copperas Cove Fire Department provided aid.

Multiple people were transported for medical care as a precaution after inhaling smoke from the fire, Lampasas Fire Marshal Ronnie Withers said.

The blaze occurred in the upstairs of a residence and was contained to the upstairs, Withers said. Firefighters extinguished the fire from the

interior, using inch-and-a-half handline.

A child was reported missing for a time but was located by Kempner Police Department officials at the scene.

Acadian Ambulance Service and Lampasas County sheriff's officers also responded to the emergency.

Heat, smoke and water damage were reported, but the structure remained intact, Withers said.

As of Thursday morning, Withers said the fire still was under investigation. He planned to return later in the day for a follow-up visit to the site.

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