



Fall Sports Preview

Inside today's edition

Lamparasas Dispatch Record

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

75 CENTS

Electric rates set to rise

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lamparasas City Council voted unanimously Monday to approve the first reading of an ordinance to increase electric rates.

In the first billing period in October, the monthly base rate will increase \$1, and the distribution energy rate will increase one-fourth of a cent per kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed.

Customers' monthly bills will increase \$2.50 per thousand kilowatt-hours consumed, plus \$1. The increase, for example, will be \$3.50 for an account holder who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours, \$6 for a customer who uses 2,000 kilowatt-hours and \$13.50 for a customer who uses 5,000 kilowatt-hours.

The rate changes are expected to boost city revenue about \$300,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, which will begin Oct. 1.

Although electric rates are set to increase, the proposed property tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year is the same as the existing rate -- 39.5218 cents per \$100 property valuation. No one spoke at a public hearing Monday about the proposed tax rate.

The next public hearing about the proposed tax rate is Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 405 S. Main St.

At the Sept. 11 meeting, set for 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, the council will vote to adopt the tax rate for the

SEE HONORS, PAGE A11



JEFF LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Ready for season opener

Senior Michael Cornish breaks a tackle on a big offensive play during scrimmage action last Friday. The Badgers' first varsity regular-season game is tonight at Fredericksburg at 7:30 p.m.

Deputy resigns

Officer faces investigation for use of force

Lamparasas County Sheriff's Office deputy Logan Jones turned in his resignation letter Aug. 7, and the resignation was effective Aug. 18, LSCO Records and Evidence Specialist Fonda Rhoades said.



Logan Jones

Jones was involved in an altercation May 25 with Quinton Cruce of Copperas Cove in which video shows Jones forcefully restraining and punching the 18-year-old. That incident is still undergoing investigation.

Jones had been placed on paid administrative leave after the use-of-force

SEE SHERIFF'S, PAGE A5



DEREK MOY | DISPATCH RECORD

Donations for Hurricane Harvey victims

Hoffpauir Chevrolet employee Ross Oliver stacks water in a trailer bound for neighboring cities around Houston after Hurricane Harvey devastated the area. Oliver said many of the donations would go to smaller towns that aren't getting as much news coverage as Houston. Donations include pallets of water, air compressors, cell phone chargers and clothing.

Lamparasas school board approves 2017-2018 budget

BY DEREK MOY
DISPATCH RECORD

In a special called meeting Monday night, the Lamparasas Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the 2017-2018 budget, which totals \$34,351,122 in revenue and \$35,257,810 in expenditures. That leaves a deficit of \$906,688.

Last year's budget was amended for the final time Monday. The district ends the 2016-2017 school year with \$30,299,428 in expenditures and \$28,976,289 in revenues -- a deficit of \$1,418,139. A good portion of that deficit was due to capital expenditures.

At Monday's public hearing, when asked about future capital expenditures, Chief Financial Officer Shane Jones said the school district likely would consider roof construction but no single construction projects like the fieldhouse are in the proposed budget.

"Roofing is going to be our main emphasis for this coming year," Jones said. "That budget doesn't include any capital outlay, so we'll be discussing that

coming up."

The budget includes more spending on curriculum and instructional staff development, up almost \$61,740 for 2017-2018.

"The [Career and Technical Education] program is going to see more expenditures in the hopes that, also, it's going to create some more revenue," Jones said. "It's going to take an investment this first year or so, and after that we hope to see the revenue begin to come up and surpass the expenditure."

The school district also set the tax rate for the new year the same as last year's, at \$1.17 per \$100 valuation for maintenance and operations, and \$0.26 to cover debt service. That makes a total rate of \$1.43 per \$100 property valuation.

The total taxes collected by the district will increase in 2017-2018, as property values have increased in Lamparasas ISD.

When asked if school taxes would have been higher if property values had been stagnant, trustees said the rate likely

SEE LISD, PAGE A5

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Aug. 27	76	71	0.22
Aug. 28	87	71	0
Aug. 29	91	71	0
Aug. 30	91	68	0

2017 rainfall total: 19.41 in.
Same date last year: 25.02 in.
Normal through Aug. 30: 21.55 in.

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

BRIEFLY

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

The Lamparasas Dispatch Record will be closed Monday for Labor Day. As a result, the Sept. 5 edition will be printed and mailed to subscribers one day later than usual.

RECEPTION

A community reception for longtime Lamparasas volunteer J.W. Hutcherson, who is moving to North Texas next month, will be Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. on the second floor of First Texas Bank,

501 E. Third St.

About 12:15, Mayor Misti Talbert will make a presentation in Hutcherson's honor. Then, people who have worked with Hutcherson will speak about his volunteer efforts.

KIWANIS PEACH SALE

The Kiwanis Club is selling Mountain Gold peaches from Colorado to raise funds for the Boys & Girls Club of Lamparasas.

A 22-pound box of peaches is available for \$50. Order deadline

is Saturday. To order peaches, call J.W. Hutcherson at 512-556-4832 or the office of Martin Millican Cooley, PLLC at 512-556-6228; or mail an order request to Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 333, Lamparasas, TX 76550. Include name, address, phone number, number of boxes requested and payment.

Peaches must be picked up Sept. 9 between 9 a.m. and noon at the Hostess House parking lot, 1406 South U.S. Highway 281.

Payment is preferred at the time orders are placed.

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