

Lampasas Dispatch Record

VOL. 112, NO. 85 ONE SECTION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

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DEREK MOY | DISPATCH RECORD

Practicing for Willy Wonka play

Lampasas High School senior Paul Peralta plays Willy Wonka during a rehearsal for the musical "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" Sunday at LHS. The musical involves not just LHS students, but also younger Lampasas ISD students -- some of whom are shown sitting around Peralta.

Candidates announce they will run for district clerk position

Cody Reed seeks re-election

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

District Clerk Cody Reed has announced he is seeking re-election to his position.

The Republican was appointed to the post in May 2016, after Terri Cox announced she was retiring as district clerk. Last November, Reed won the general election to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Now, he is seeking a full four-year term.

"I still have a lot to offer to the community," the Lampasas resident said. "There's still a lot of things that need to be done in the district court's office and the district court, and I feel like I still have a lot of work to do."

The incumbent said since becoming district clerk he has "completely revamped the office" by implementing technological programs to make operations more efficient. The office has met a state mandate for all civil case documents to be filed electronically, and it is working toward complete e-filing on criminal cases, he said.

Based on Lampasas County's size, the state is giving the county until 2020 to meet the 100 percent e-filing mandate on criminal cases. Reed said he plans to implement full e-filing by the middle of 2018, though.

"I'd rather be ahead of the game than behind the game when it comes to that technology curve," he said.

Reed said he enjoys training and networking to learn how counties similar in size to Lampasas conduct county business. A district clerk is required to complete 20 hours of continuing education per year, but Reed said he completed 60 hours last year. In addition,



Cody Reed

Edith Harrison plans to file for post

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

Edith Harrison has announced she is running as a Republican candidate for district clerk.

Mrs. Harrison will face Republican incumbent Cody Reed -- her opponent in 2016, when she ran as an independent candidate.

She said she is seeking the district clerk's position because she wants to give Lampasas County voters a choice in the 2018 election.

"I did lose to my opponent in that [2016] election, but I still know I am the better choice for the position of Lampasas County district clerk, as I will be a good steward of the county resources and a voice for the voters," Mrs. Harrison said.

A special education teacher in the Killeen Independent School District, Mrs. Harrison lives just south of Lampasas city limits and has roots in the community.

She attended all 12 years of school in Lampasas and graduated from Lampasas High School in 1977. After living in Bell County approximately 15 years, she returned to Lampasas County about four years ago.

The candidate worked as a Texas Department of Criminal Justice correctional officer in Gatesville for nine years and has worked in public education for more than 30 years. Her service in education includes nine years in Lampasas and 12 in Copperas Cove. Now in her 13th year with Killeen ISD, Mrs. Harrison said she plans to retire at the end of May.

Mrs. Harrison earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences from Texas State University in 2004 and earned a master's



Edith Harrison

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SEE HARRISON, PAGE 12

City aims for internet improvements

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

In response to multiple phone and internet service outages this year, city staff and the Lampasas Economic Development Corp. are working to select a company to assess Lampasas' telecommunication system and offer suggestions for improvements.

After receiving proposals from six companies, the LEDC Board of Directors voted unanimously last week to authorize staff to negotiate and finalize a contract for assessment, design and specification for technology infrastructure.

Economic Development Director Mandy Walsh said

the LEDC received proposals from six companies: Foresite Group Inc. and Clarus Data, both of Austin; True North Consulting Group of Waco; Finley Engineering of Lamar, Missouri; ARCS of Oklahoma City and Intelconnect Inc. of Saline, Michigan.

Officials are looking closely at the two companies that submitted the top-ranked proposals, City Manager Finley deGraffenried said.

Once a contract is awarded, the company's recommendations for telecommunications improvements -- including identification of network design and financial models -- should be issued within 30-60 days, Mrs. Walsh said.

"Then we move forward with engineering, design phase and eventually construction and buildout," she said. "There's a lot to identify prior to that happening."

Mrs. Walsh said reliable internet service is essential to the Lampasas economy. Businesses in the area have been encouraged to see action the LEDC is taking to address telecommunications concerns, she said.

Both the LEDC board and the Lampasas City Council rank internet improvements as one of the key items needed for economic development, deGraffenried said.

"If it's not absolutely

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Early voting underway on seven proposed amendments

Voting on proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution has commenced for those who like to exercise their civic duty early.

Early voting will be offered weekdays in Lampasas County through Nov. 3. Election day is Nov. 7.

Seven amendments are on the statewide ballot. Recommendations by the Dispatch Record appear on page 4 of today's edition.

Lampasas County voters who reside within the Copperas Cove city limits

have additional measures on their ballots for Nov. 7. These voters will be considering a proposal to create the Copperas Cove Municipal Development District and a 3/8 percent sales tax levy to fund it, as well as the election of two council members.

Those who live within the Copperas Cove extraterritorial jurisdiction also can vote on the Municipal Development District creation.

The early voting location for Lampasas County registered voters is the

elections administrator office at 407 S. Pecan St. on Lampasas' downtown square. Hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Extended hours -- from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. -- are offered today and Oct. 31 only.

Countywide polling locations will be open on Nov. 7, when balloting will be available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail must be received by the election administrator no later than the close of business Friday.



JEFF LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Tennis team dominates area playoff match

Kevin Fesler returns a volley during the Badgers' 19-0 blowout win over Madisonville on Thursday. Lampasas advanced to the team tennis regional quarterfinals Monday. See page 7 for a re-cap of the area match, and see Friday's edition for regional results.

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Oct. 19	81	55	0
Oct. 20	81	58	0
Oct. 21	88	71	0
Oct. 22	76	50	0.59

2017 rainfall total: 22.20 in.
Same date last year: 26.81 in.
Normal through Oct. 22: 26.77 in.

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

BRIEFLY

BURN BAN

A countywide burn ban, which prohibits outdoor fires in areas outside incorporated city limits, remains in effect. A violation is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

There are certain exceptions, including exemptions for burning household trash in a barrel with a screen on top and burning brush, subject to specific conditions. Those who plan to burn brush piles during a burn ban must fill out a form and

return it to the county judge's office at least 24 hours before the fire. For details, contact the county judge's office at 512-556-8271.

FREE SOIL ANALYSIS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are encouraging landowners in the Lampasas River watershed to submit soil samples for a free analysis.

Small bags may be picked up at the NRCS office at 502 S. Key Ave. or at

the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office at 409 S. Pecan St.

Landowners are encouraged to dig about six inches deep on several parts of their property, fill the bags with soil and mix the soil together in a five-gallon bucket. Samples can be turned in to the NRCS office or the AgriLife office between now and Nov. 1, after which they will be sent to Texas A&M to be analyzed.

Through this program, landowners will be able to see the nutrients present or lacking in their soil.

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lampasasdispatchrecord.com
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TIP OF THE WEEK:
Mulch flower beds and gardens for winter weather.

Call 512-540-2833 or 254-518-3590

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