

## Fire destroys home near Kempner

### Multiple agencies respond to blaze Monday on FM 2313

BY JIM LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

A fire of an unknown cause destroyed a house north of Kempner Monday evening.

A passing motorist reported the blaze in the 3700 block of FM 2313, about three miles from Kempner.

Smoke could be seen for miles away.

Kempner Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched at 6 p.m. Additional help was sought from the Lampasas Fire Department and Lometa Volunteer Fire Department a short time later.

Lampasas Fire Chief Reece Oestreich served as incident commander.

"It's a total loss," said Lampasas Fire Marshal Ronnie Withers of the one-story residence. The native stone and brick house

also had Hardie board siding.

Withers is continuing an investigation into the fire.

No one was home at the time of the blaze, but there were belongings in the house, the fire marshal said. There were no pets in the house, he said.

Eighteen firefighters battled the blaze, which was brought under control about 7:30 p.m. Firefighters were on the scene until shortly before 11 p.m.

When fire personnel arrived, the structure was engulfed in flames.

A "defensive attack" was ordered. No firefighters went inside, and all firefighting was from the exterior, Withers said.

"It was not safe for anyone to go in," he said.

In an interview Wednesday

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JIM LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Lampasas firemen Jared Payne, left, and Charles Wortherspoon were among 18 firefighters who battled a residential blaze Monday evening on FM 2313.

## City Council votes to pave trails within Campbell Park

BY DAVID LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD



DAVID LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas City Council voted Monday to award a contract for construction of concrete trails through the Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden at Campbell Park.

The trails will replace the park's existing gravel paths, providing smooth sidewalks for people to use when looking at the sculptures.

Concrete sidewalks also are intended to allow for parks department vehicle traffic during maintenance work, according to Parks and Recreation Director Chris Eicher.

The council voted 6-0, with council member TJ Monroe absent from the meeting, to award the trail installation project to Canales-Dibble Construction Inc. The Lampasas company will install about a half-mile of 5-foot-wide concrete trails for \$60,620.

The city received four bids, and one was lower than the amount Canales-Dibble offered. ASJ Construction of Lampasas bid \$58,610.

Although Canales-Dibble's bid was not the lowest, the procurement method the

city used allows officials to consider which company will provide the overall "best value" to the city.

Eicher said after contacting references, city staff decided to recommend awarding the project to Canales-Dibble. Eicher cited the company's "quality of work and relationship and job history" with the city as reasons for the recommendation.

Canales-Dibble expects to begin its work in Campbell Park very soon, barring inclement weather, Eicher said. The installation should take about three weeks, the parks director said.

In other business, the council voted 6-0 to leave telecommunications right of way access line rates unchanged.

The city could have increased rates about 1 percent due to inflation, but City Manager Finley deGraffenried said telecom-

munications companies pass the charge on to their landline customers.

To keep customers from facing a higher fee because of the line charge, the council has voted in the past to leave rates unchanged, deGraffenried said.

The city manager said Lampasas' revenue from the right of way access line rates continues to decrease as fewer people use landlines. The city received \$51,807 in the 2017 fiscal year. In the 2016 fiscal year, the revenue was \$54,977.

On another item, the council voted 6-0 to replace Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system equipment at four lift stations. The SCADA system provides automated control and monitoring of water flow, pressure, tank levels, disinfectant and other items related to the

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## Lometa school board approves list of staff members who may carry concealed guns

BY ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH  
DISPATCH RECORD

After an executive session Monday that lasted roughly 20 minutes, the Lometa Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a list of 10 staff members who will be permitted to carry firearms on campus.

While the district will not release the names of those employees for safety reasons, Superintendent David Fisher said only those who volunteered to carry and already have a License to Carry through the state of Texas will be allowed to do so. Staff members who are uncomfortable carrying firearms will not have that responsibility.

Even with a License to Carry, staff will be expected to complete additional training, according to Lometa ISD policy.

"They need to have training and after a plan is set up, that will be instituted," Fisher said. "We will have at least an annual training component."

Fisher told the Dispatch Record in February that he had halted a concealed-carry proposal for the district until teachers had received proper training. But after recent school shootings in Parkland, Florida, the superintendent believed it was time to act quickly to prepare teachers.

The approved staff members will not be permitted to carry firearms until a security plan is developed and instituted, which "we'll be working on in the next couple of weeks," Fisher said.

Open carry of weapons still will be

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## Services set for former county attorney Pat Cavness

Former county attorney Pat E. Cavness of Lampasas died March 19, 2018. He was 75.

A memorial service will be held April 14 at 2 p.m. at Sneed Funeral Chapel, with a gathering afterward at The Hostess House.

Mr. Cavness was born Oct. 25, 1942 in Lampasas County, the youngest of three children of Damon Edward "Bill" Cavness and Bernice Parish Cavness.

When he was still a baby, the family moved to Cherokee, in San Saba County.

He graduated from Cherokee High School in 1961, after lettering in both football and basketball.

Mr. Cavness attended San Angelo Junior College for a semester before transferring to

The University of Texas, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1964. He completed law school there in 1966.

That same year Mr. Cavness announced his candidacy for Lampasas County attorney, was elected and took office soon after receiving his law degree.

He and the former

SEE FORMER, PAGE 10



Pat Cavness

College for a semester before transferring to

### WEATHER

| Date     | High | Low | Rain  |
|----------|------|-----|-------|
| March 25 | 81   | 66  | trace |
| March 26 | 85   | 66  | 0     |
| March 27 | 73   | 58  | 0.23  |
| March 28 | 67   | 54  | 0.93  |

2018 rainfall total: 4.16 in.  
Same date last year: 5.17 in.  
Normal through March 28: 6.67 in.

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

### BRIEFLY

#### FREE COURTHOUSE TOURS

Free tours of the historic county courthouse are offered on Saturdays -- including this holiday weekend -- at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The tours last 45 minutes, and tour-goers are guided by a docent.

The Lampasas County courthouse is the third-oldest courthouse in continuous use in the state of Texas.

#### BURN BAN LIFTED TEMPORARILY

County Judge Wayne Boultinghouse has suspended the county's outdoor

burn ban until Sunday at 7 p.m. As a result, outdoor fires are allowed in areas outside incorporated city limits.

#### DIAMONDBACK JUBILEE

Diamondback Jubilee activities are scheduled today and Saturday at Lometa Regional Park.

Free mutton busting will be each day at 7 p.m. and will be followed by open rodeo competition. A carnival also will be open both days.

On Saturday, an Easter Egg hunt organized by Church of the Hills will

be at 10 a.m., and the rattlesnake display will begin at the same time. Rattler Team Roping and the Little Buckaroo Rodeo will begin at 11 a.m.

Goat roping will be Saturday from 2-4:30 p.m. Other activities Saturday include a chili cookoff, food vendors, arts and crafts, and live music.

The Miss Diamondback Jubilee Rodeo Queen will be announced Saturday about 8 p.m. A dance after Saturday's rodeo will feature Branden Benningfield and the Guadalupe Pirates.

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