

## Congressman honors veterans from Vietnam era

BY DEREK MOY  
DISPATCH RECORD

District 25 U.S. Representative Roger Williams was in Lampasas on Thursday to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day at the old Lampasas Middle School cafeteria. At the ceremony, which is held annually on March 29, Williams was joined by Mayor Misti Talbert, District 54 State Representative Scott Cosper and Jaime Melendez of the Texas Veterans Commission. The mayor, state representative and congressman handed out certificates and pins to veterans. During the event, Williams shook the hand of every veteran who was called up to receive a certificate and

pin. Williams thanked the veterans for their service and said the country loves them. "As you all know, March 29 marks an important day in our country," the congressman said. "Today every American citizen should take the time to honor and give thanks to all of our military veterans. All the veterans and those in this room today have made sacrifices that benefit all of us." The veterans were recognized by their branch of service. A total of 125 veterans were slated to receive a certificate and pin honoring their service, and 90 of those veterans received the honors in person Thursday. "You are an elite group

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DEREK MOY | DISPATCH RECORD

Flanked by veterans, District 25 U.S. Representative Roger Williams applauds during a ceremony Thursday that honored those who served in the United States armed forces during the Vietnam War era. That period was defined as November 1955 to May 1975.

## Political parties select delegates to attend state conventions

### County's Republicans zero in on closed primaries, Texas House speaker

BY JIM LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas County Republican Party approved four resolutions and named delegates to the state convention, during its recent county convention. Some 30 people turned out for the event at the Lampasas County Courthouse. Earlier, members of the GOP met in precinct conven-

tions and heard from state and county candidates. District 54 State Rep. Scott Cosper and his opponent, Dr. Brad Buckley, addressed delegates, as did district clerk candidates Edith Wagner Harrison and Trina Hudson. The GOP's nominee for county treasurer, Melissa Karcher, also attended the county convention. Delegates OK'd resolutions that call for the following:

- a closed primary system.
- support for "school choice and school vouchers that will follow students to private schools."
- the speaker of the Texas House to be the person whom the majority of the Republican caucus supports. Sanctions would be applied to dissidents.
- "meaningful property tax

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### Democratic resolutions address topics ranging from energy to gun laws

BY DAVID LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

During its county convention March 24, the Lampasas County Democratic Party passed several policy resolutions and selected delegates to attend the state convention. Delegates to the state convention -- scheduled June 21-23 in Fort Worth

-- are county chairwoman Cyndy Bureson, Melissa Smith, Christina Stapleton and Clayton Tucker. Lampasas County Democrats approved the following resolutions:

**VOTER PRIVACY**  
"Be it resolved that the Texas secretary of state impose a minimum distance of 6 feet between the beginning of the line

of voters and the check-in table at all polling locations to ensure voter privacy."

**TEACHER PAY RAISES**  
"Be it resolved that pay raises for public school teachers be paid for by state funds and not local property taxes in order that all public schools

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ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH | DISPATCH RECORD

## Racing in the Little Buckaroo Rodeo

Elizabeth Sturgeon pulls ahead of Clayton Clifton, front right, for the win in a stick horse race at the Little Buckaroo Rodeo during the Lometa Diamondback Jubilee on Saturday. See pages 9 and 12 for additional photos from the Diamondback Jubilee.

## Proposed change in water billing prompts concern

BY DAVID LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

A change in Central Texas Water Supply Corp.'s billing methodology could cost Lampasas about \$76,000 annually and Kempner Water Supply Corp. more than \$154,000 per year, according to statistics from City Manager Finley deGraffenried. The change, set to take effect with the April 1 billing cycle, relates to how Central Texas Water Supply calculates the percentage of operations and maintenance expenses Kempner Water Supply must pay. Increases from Central Texas Water Supply affect Lampasas because the city, through its contract with Kempner Water, pays a percentage of KWSC's operations and maintenance expense. O&M expenses, deGraffenried said, include costs related to Central Texas Water's staff, electricity and water treatment chemicals. DeGraffenried said until the CTWSC board approved the change in the billing method, Kempner Water's operations and maintenance percentage had been set by calculating the amount of water KWSC receives -- as a percentage of the total water received by all

CTWSC customers. Lampasas uses a similar formula -- based on the city's water received as a percentage of total water KWSC receives -- to determine how much Lampasas owes each month for operations and maintenance. DeGraffenried said under the new billing method it intends to implement, Central Texas Water will read meters at its older water plant rather than calculating percentages based on total water received by all customers. The result, deGraffenried said, is that Lampasas' and Kempner Water's O&M percentages will rise. He said Central Texas Water believes the older plant is the one that serves KWSC and Lampasas, whereas the newer plant provides water for other customers. DeGraffenried, however, said one could argue that is an arbitrary distinction that inflates what Kempner Water and the city of Lampasas must pay for operations and maintenance. The Dispatch Record contacted CTWSC General Manager Lee Kelley multiple times for comments about the billing change and the reasons for it, but Kelley did not respond to messages by press time. DeGraffenried said if the new formula had

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### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
March 29	76	51	0
March 30	71	46	0
March 31	81	52	0
April 1	80	52	0

2018 rainfall total: 4.16 in.  
Same date last year: 5.88 in.  
Normal through April 1: 6.97 in.

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

### BRIEFLY

#### BLOOMIN' FEST

Bloomin' Fest, an annual Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce event, will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Lampasas' downtown square. The festival features arts and crafts booths, food, gardening booths and a children's area. Bloomin' Fest also includes a Spring Sip 'n Stroll. Tickets, available at the event, are \$20, and they include wine tastings and souvenir wine glasses. Also during Bloomin' Fest, the Lampasas County Museum will

celebrate the first anniversary of its grand re-opening. The museum is at 303 S. Western Ave. For more details about Bloomin' Fest, contact the chamber of commerce at 512-556-5172.

#### BURN BAN SUSPENDED

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. County officials ask people to call the

sheriff's office at 512-556-8255 before starting controlled fires.

#### PET CLINIC

A Kempner Pet Vaccination Clinic will be April 14 from 1-4 p.m. at the Kempner fire station, 315 Pecan St. Dr. Scott Rushing and his office personnel will be present to provide shots. Rabies vaccination is \$10, canine DAPP is \$15 and feline D/L is \$15 at this event. City/county pet registration is an additional \$3.

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