

Court nixes emergency services district proposal

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

It's official: A proposal to create an emergency services district for firefighting on the east side of the county will not be on the November 2019 ballot.

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court voted unanimously Monday to deny the request for the district, which Kempner Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dan Hause and other petition organizers had sought to establish.

Monday's vote formalized what Hause said in a public hearing last week, when he told the audience the ESD proposal was "dead, basically."

The Copperas Cove City Council's July 2 vote against formation of the district prompted the decision not to call an election about the matter.

SEE RESIDENT, PAGE 2



Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer Shemirell Daugherty, right, shows Erin Riley echocardiogram equipment during an open house Wednesday at AdventHealth Rollins Brook.

JEFF LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Cardiology equipment displayed at open house

An open house on Wednesday celebrated state-of-the-art equipment added in recent months to AdventHealth Rollins Brook's heart and vascular services. The hospital now is

equipped to provide cardiac stress tests, see 3D images of the heart and do cardiac monitoring.

Dr. Rikin Patel, cardiologist for Baylor Scott & White and AdventHealth, and

his staff will be in Lampasas Monday mornings and Thursdays to offer stress tests and ultrasounds.

Dr. Umad Ahmad, medical director for cardiology, said the new equipment "is

much superior" to what is offered even at AdventHealth Central Texas in Killeen.

"We're investing more in the [Lampasas] community right now, because of the aging population."

Tree planting approved in memory of crash victim

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

In a Kempner City Council meeting that included some controversy, the final action item Tuesday prompted praise, rather than argument, from city officials.

The council unanimously approved an 11-year-old Girl Scout's request to plant a tree in Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park in honor of her late father.

Guinevere Carey, a member of Troop 6005, sought permission for her troop to plant a tree in the park in memory of Anthony Gilbert James Carey. The 34-year-old died June 3 in a two-vehicle crash in the 12700 block of U.S. Highway 190 in Kempner.

Guinevere spoke to the council briefly, and her troop leader, Kasey Schwartzter, read the rest of the girl's comments when Guinevere was overcome by emotion. Just a few minutes

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Former Kempner alderman appointed to return to office

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

Despite objections from one councilman and several residents, the Kempner City Council voted Tuesday to appoint past councilman Bob Crane to fill a council seat that recently became vacant.

Crane ran for re-election to Place III earlier this year but lost to John Wilkerson on May 4. After being off the council about two months, Crane now holds the Place II position, which had been vacant since Don

Casper resigned June 24.

Mayor Keith Harvey recommended appointing Crane, and the council voted 3-1 to approve that recommendation. After the vote, Crane took the oath of office and joined the council for the rest of the meeting agenda items.

Wilkerson cast the dissenting vote about the appointment. He said he did not receive resumes from any applicants and does not feel the City Council was involved

SEE APPOINTMENT, PAGE 9

Lampasas council opposes appraisal district budget

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

For the second year in a row, the Lampasas City Council voted to disapprove the Lampasas Central Appraisal District's proposed budget.

The vote Monday was 5-2, with Mayor Misti Talbert, Mayor Pro Tem TJ Monroe, and council members Randy Clark, Delana Toups and Chuck Williamson opposing the appraisal district budget. Councilwoman Cathy Kuehne and Councilman

Mike White voted in favor. Salary increases prompted concern from the council last year, and most of Monday's discussion among appraisal district representatives and the council related to that topic.

Total salary expenses rose about 11 percent from the 2018 fiscal year to this year, and the proposed budget for 2020 calls for total staff pay to increase about 4 percent from the current budget, according to information presented to the council.

For the last few years, LCAD has been implementing a long-term plan to raise salaries to make them more comparable to what other appraisal districts pay, LCAD board member Paul Wilborn said.

Wilborn said consultant and retired Taylor County chief appraiser Richard Petree, who prepared the salary study, said LCAD is comparable to other appraisal districts within commuting distance of

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'Survivor'-themed academic camp

Learning about water filtration, Lilyana Gill, center, pours a bottle of dirty water through a filtration system during STEAM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) for kids on Tuesday. Also pictured, left to right, are Desirae Pinkston and Tasha Pinkston. The event offered instruction from Lampasas ISD teachers, and its theme was based on the show "Survivor."

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
July 21	95	73	0
July 22	96	75	0
July 23	87	73	0
July 24	86	70	0

Rainfall so far this year: 18.12 in.

Data from the Lower Colorado River Authority (site 11 miles west-northwest of Lampasas, near Nix).

BRIEFLY

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE

South Pecan Street between East Second and East Third streets will be closed this Sunday from about 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Chief of Police Sammy Bailey said, as Ajinomoto Foods uses a crane to remove an old tower on the factory's roof and replace it with a new tower.

BURN BAN LIFTED

County Judge Randy Hoyer has lifted the county's burn ban

until Monday at 7 p.m. As a result, outdoor fires are allowed outside incorporated city limits.

Officials urge people to use caution when burning. In addition, officials ask people to notify the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office of fire plans in advance by calling 512-556-8255.

BLOOD DRIVE

The next American Red Cross Community Blood Drive will be Aug. 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

in the First Street Church of Christ fellowship hall, 201 West First St. All blood types are needed.

MEET THE TEACHER

The Lometa Independent School District will host a community-wide "Meet the Teacher" event Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.

The event will take place in the Lometa School cafeteria, and a free barbecue meal will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

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