

DEATHS



Mrs. Callaway

Bobbye Lou Johnson Callaway, 82, of Lampasas, died Sept. 13, 2019.

Service will be held Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Allan officiating. Burial will be Sept. 19 at Guiceland Cemetery in Grapeland at 1 p.m.

Bobbye Lou was born on Nov. 6, 1936 in Center, Texas, to J.W. Johnson and Lucille (Watson) Johnson. She grew up in East Texas and Austin, and went to Humble High School until Smiley High School was built her senior year.

While in high school she played basketball, was in the choral club, the dramatics club, the Spanish club, the pep squad, FHA and was senior class secretary. She graduated

from Smiley High School in 1955.

After high school, she attended Southwest Texas State Teacher's College. After one semester, she went home and began dating high school classmate Roy Callaway, who proposed at the Princess Diner in East Houston. On Oct. 12, 1956, they were married.

Bobbye and Roy attended church regularly and left a little Baptist church with Rev. John Osteen to found a new church they called Lakewood.

While raising three children, Bobbye attended Sam Houston State University, where she received a degree in secondary education in English and history. She became a fourth-generation Texas teacher and dedicated her knowledge and love of English to many students. She was named Humble High School's Teacher of the Year and was named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers two years.

God was first in her life, and she raised her children the same way. She loved her family and never missed her children's performances or sporting events.

After 20 years in Humble ISD, Bobbye retired in 1998. In 1999, Roy and Bobbye moved to Lampasas, where they built a home

and began attending First United Methodist Church. She came out of retirement and began teaching English at Copperas Cove High School. She enjoyed another five years before again retiring and focusing on traveling with Roy and enjoying her grandchildren.

Bobbye Lou was preceded in death by her brother Jerry Davis and sisters-in-law Mary Matkin and Barbara Davis.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Roy Callaway; her children Jeri and Jody Hudson, Doug and Diane Callaway, and Scott and Debra Callaway; grandchildren Jacob, Jera and Joshua Hudson, and Colin and Brooke Callaway; her brothers and sisters Ted Matkin, Max Davis (Linda), Judy Reagor (Billy), Brenda Tyler Davis, Judy Weaver (Ted) and Cindy Barkley (Toot); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members.

Memorials can be made to First United Methodist Church in Lampasas.



Residential garbage fee to increase, but no utility rate changes planned

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water or sewer rates.

Even without a tax rate increase, growth in overall property values means the city is projected to collect \$55,072 more property tax revenue in the upcoming fiscal year than in the current year. That information was presented during the Sept. 9 council meeting.

Property owners' tax bills are calculated by multiplying the tax rate times the property's taxable value. The Lampasas Central Appraisal District -- not the taxing entities -- sets the taxable value of properties.

Even if the council gives final approval to leaving the tax rate unchanged, city tax bills could increase for people whose property has risen in value.

From last year to this year, the average taxable value of a residence in Lampasas rose from \$92,110 to \$97,904, according to LCAD Chief Appraiser Melissa Gonzales. An owner whose property appraisal has increased from last year's average value to the current average value would pay an extra \$22.90 in city taxes in the new fiscal year. The new budget year will begin Oct. 1.

If the council finalizes its plan to leave the tax rate unchanged, those whose property values have not increased over the past year would see no change in their city tax bills.

In addition, a city homestead tax freeze for people 65 or older keeps the dollar value of the bill from increasing, even if property values inflate.

If a senior citizen moves to a more expensive house, or enlarges or renovates an existing homestead property, tax bills rise based on the increased value and then



DAVID LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas City Council has decided to increase monthly residential garbage collection rates by \$1.25 -- but to make no change in property tax, electric, water or sewer rates.

are frozen at the new amount.

School district taxes account for the largest portion of the total tax bill, and the Lampasas Independent School District Board of Trustees voted recently to lower LISD's property tax rate about 10 cents per \$100 in the upcoming fiscal year. The rate reduction is a result of new state legislation about public school funding.

County taxes -- which also account for a larger portion of Lampasas residents' total tax bills than city taxes do -- appear set to rise. Although the rate will not be finalized until later this month, the Lampasas County Commissioners Court voted Aug. 26 to increase the levy by 1.5 cents per \$100. Commissioners Court mem-

bers have said the tax increase is primarily because of costs associated with building and operating the new county jail.

Although the City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to leave the tax rate unchanged, the governing body did vote unanimously Sept. 9 to raise the monthly garbage collection fee by \$1.25. The increase, which will apply only for residential trash pickup, will take effect in the first billing cycle next month.

In addition, customers may see a rate increase from the service provider, Waste Connections. The city's contract with the company allows Waste Connections to request an annual inflation adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index.

New company picked for concrete work at former City Hall after subcontractor for low bidder withdraws his proposal

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ramp work to ensure the building is handicap-accessible and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The City Council voted Sept. 3 to award the concrete project to ASJ, which bid \$8,184.

The subcontractor for ASJ later withdrew his proposal, however, City Manager Finley deGraffenried told the council. As a result, ASJ pulled itself from the concrete installation work on Sept. 5.

DeGraffenried said city officials are disappointed, and they communicated that to the contractor.

ASJ did not respond by press time to a telephone message seeking comment.

The council voted Sept. 9 to award a contract for the job to Canales-Dibble Contractors Inc. The Lampasas company provided the second-lowest bid -- \$16,866.

The council authorized deGraffenried to increase the total amount of the contract by a maximum of 25% for additional work that was not included in the bid documents.

The authorization to approve increased costs, deGraffenried said, is not for change orders but for additional flatwork.

"Where we brought in a new water main, we busted up some sidewalk there," the city manager said. "We'd like to just go ahead and do that. It was not part of that bidding."

The contract for the concrete project calls for the city to demolish existing flatwork "and haul off spoils and debris."

The contract also includes the following stipulations: "City to provide rough excavation. Contractor to provide finish excavation. City to provide base material to be placed and compacted by Contractor at an estimated depth of 12".


Contractor shall call for all inspections, and City shall verify elevations prior to installation of concrete."

In a telephone interview Thursday, deGraffenried said once the inspection of ramp elevations is done and Canales-Dibble starts forming the ramp, that work should be complete within five days.

The concrete work and completion of the elevator are the last items the former City Hall building needs for the renovation to be complete, deGraffenried said. ASJ remains the general contractor for that project.

Final elevator adjustments were scheduled Sept. 13, and then the city will seek a state inspection for the elevator, deGraffenried said.

Although the city manager said he hesitates to predict exactly when the renovation project will conclude, he said the project is "very close" to completion.




Annual Banquet
Monday, Sept. 30
6-8 p.m.
 at Infinity X 2 venue
 615 CR 3064, Lampasas

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