



# Lamparasas Dispatch Record

VOL. 114, NO. 92 ONE SECTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

75 CENTS

## Study to suggest options for improving water system on west side of town

BY DAVID LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lamparasas City Council voted Tuesday to pay for a preliminary engineering analysis of ways to improve the water distribution system on the west side of town. The study by Jones-Heroy & Associates Inc. is intended to identify improvements that will provide for long-term growth -- and also address concerns voiced recently by residents about low water pressure in northwestern parts of town.

The total cost of the analysis is not to exceed \$48,000. The council approved the item 6-0, with Councilman Randy Clark recusing himself from the discussion and vote. Clark, whose son Travis works for Jones-Heroy, said he abstained from involvement in the agenda item to avoid a conflict of interest. During a meeting last month, Fawn Acres residents Craig Benton and Kevin Rowe told the City Council the water pressure in their neighborhood has been low for years. The pres-



FILE PHOTO  
An engineering analysis will recommend potential improvements to the water distribution system for western parts of town, which are served by this water tower at Nix Road and North Willis Street.

sure fluctuates significantly, they added, when sprinklers run at the nearby FM 580

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## County prepares for annual financial audit

BY DAVID LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lamparasas County Commissioners Court voted Tuesday to engage the firm of Pattillo, Brown & Hill to conduct an independent annual audit of the county's finances. The cost is not to exceed \$30,000.

The county has used Pattillo, Brown & Hill for the last several years, County Judge Randy Hoyer said. The company will do its audit work in March and will present its report in May, according to Hoyer and Susie Lafuente, the interim county auditor.

Although the Commissioners Court's vote to engage Pattillo, Brown & Hill was unanimous, Precinct 1 Commissioner Bobby Carroll said because the county has used the same firm for many years, he wonders if it might be good to consider other

SEE COMMISSIONERS, PAGE 10

## Officers rescue couple from house fire

BY ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH  
DISPATCH RECORD

Four law enforcement officers ran into a burning house early Tuesday morning to save a Lamparasas couple and their dog, officials said.

Lamparasas Fire Marshal Ronnie Withers said first responders were dispatched to 408 E. Fifth St. after a neighbor made an emergency call at 1 a.m.

Sheriff Jess Ramos said a neighbor had woken early and was looking outside to determine if the roads had frozen when he saw his neighbor's house in flames. The residence at 408 E. Fifth St. is a single-story wooden structure in a notable shade of turquoise.

Lamparasas County Sheriff's Office deputies Justin Wilson, Calvin Wilcox and Rhett Levingston were at the sheriff's office taking their dinner break and working on reports when they, too, were notified of the house fire. The blaze was directly behind the southeast corner of the sheriff's office, authorities said.

"They immediately exited the side door and observed the house engulfed in fire," Ramos said. "They took off running across the field."

When deputies arrived, so did Lamparasas police officer Garrett Bradley.

Ramos said the four



ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH | DISPATCH RECORD  
This residence on East Fifth Street was deemed a "total loss" after a fire started in an exterior wall and burned the house on Tuesday morning. The two residents and their dog were unharmed.

### SECOND RESIDENTIAL FIRE OCCURS TUESDAY. SEE PAGE 9.

officers entered the house to find the residents and their dog.

"They went inside and woke them up and got them out while the house was burning," Ramos said.

The officers located Julie Lane, 78, sleeping on a chair in the living room and her husband, 74-year-old Orville Lane, in a bedroom near the rear of the residence, Ramos said in a news release.

"They were able to assist Mrs. Lane onto a wheelchair and get her out

of the residence," as well as get Orville Lane out of the house, the sheriff said.

The officers also recovered the pet Chihuahua from the residence.

Time was a serious matter, Ramos said, because "smoke can kill you faster than fire can."

Withers said the first Lamparasas Fire Department units arrived on scene at 1:02 a.m., and "some were delayed because of ice on windshields."

Temperatures in Lamparasas were in the 20s in the early-morning hours, and the temperature dropped to 23 degrees at 7:15 a.m., the National

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ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH | DISPATCH RECORD

## Veterans Day observance honors those who served

Kempner Mayor Dr. Keith Harvey and Col. Deitra L. Trotter, commander of the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Hood, place a ceremonial wreath in Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park during a Veterans Day program.

## Kempner City Council hires new employee, annexes part of Cheyenne Mountain Estates

BY ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH  
DISPATCH RECORD

The Kempner City Council voted Tuesday to hire a new city employee, annex 8 acres and select five streets for repairs.

After brief discussion, the council unanimously approved the hiring of Tracie Martin as Municipal Court clerk and assistant city secretary. Martin will take the place of former assistant city secretary and Municipal Court clerk Jami Whitehead, who resigned along with two other city personnel on Sept. 10.

After holding a public hearing Tuesday, the council voted to annex 8 acres into the city limits. The acreage is a portion of Cheyenne Mountain Estates, a subdivision located partially in Kempner city limits and partially in an unincorporated part of Lamparasas County, said Mayor Dr. Keith Harvey.

"Mr. [Chamous] Savage has been attempting to do this for a solid year," Harvey said during the public hearing. "A year is just too long. I don't want to prevent Mr. Savage from building homes for future residents."

Kempner Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dan Hause spoke to suggest the development include fire hydrants for additional safety.

"With a hydrant, you can flow 200-500



FILE PHOTO

During a 2018 Kempner City Council workshop session, Chamous Savage, left, talks to Mayor Pro Tem David Richardson about Savage's plans for a subdivision off County Road 4810. The council voted Tuesday to annex the property.

gallons per minute," he said. "With tanker trucks going back and forth, it's nowhere near as effective. It's like taking a bucket back and forth."

Hause also said hydrants would improve the future residents' Insurance Service

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### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Nov. 10	72	50	0
Nov. 11	67	28	0.05
Nov. 12	41	22	0.02
Nov. 13	41	25	0

Rainfall so far this year: 23.03 in.

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

### BRIEFLY

#### BRIGGS FISH FRY

The Briggs Community Center, located at 185 Loop 308, will host a fish fry on Saturday at 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for the all-you-can-eat meal.

A silent auction will be held. Auction items are appreciated, and desserts are needed.

#### JURY DUTY CANCELED

Jury duty for Monday has been canceled, District Clerk Edith

Harrison announced.

#### BURN BAN LIFTED

County Judge Randy Hoyer has suspended the county burn ban until Tuesday at 5 p.m. As a result, outdoor fires are allowed outside incorporated city limits.

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

#### BRUSH-COLLECTION SERVICE

The city of Lamparasas is offering free curbside pick-up of brush for the next few weeks.

Crews will work Monday through Nov. 22 on the southeast section of town -- east of Key Avenue and south of First Street.

Brush must be no longer than 4 feet, and no lumber or trash will be picked up by city crews. The bundle of brush must be out by the curb. No alley pick-up is available.

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