

DEATHS



Ruth Henry

Mary Ruth (Tomblin) Henry died Nov. 9, 2019. A funeral service was held Nov. 13 at Pompey Mountain Church in Mills County. Sneed Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements. Ruth was born Nov. 30, 1933 to Tommy and Sadie Tomblin in the oil fields of Webb County, Texas. She started school in Cayote, Texas, moved to Bigfoot for middle school and graduated from Devine High School in 1950. While at Devine High School, she was drum major in band and was queen of the Strawberry Festival in Poteet.

Ruth worked at Lackland Air Force Base after graduating from high school and was in charge of the unit responsible for investigating and granting top-secret clearances for the Air Force throughout the world after WWII.

While at Lackland, Ruth and Bob Sutton were married, and Tom, Phil and Susan Sutton were welcomed into the family. After the three children completed their schooling, Ruth started her college career at age 42 at Central Texas College and graduated with honors.

Then, she served as the office manager of the 30,000-acre Goodrich Ranch in Burnet County for 20 years. She became proficient in holistic ranch operations, which she later carried to the Henry Ranch in Mills County.

Ruth married Dale Henry on July 21, 2002.

Ruth loved adventure and qualified for her private pilot's license at age 34. She enjoyed traveling the world.

Later, a lifelong eye problem resulted in both corneas having to be replaced. When complications developed, Ruth lost the ability to talk and walk.

Ruth was a lifelong follower of Jesus Christ.



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# City seeks options for water system improvements

FROM PAGE 1

West Sports Park.

At last month's meeting, Clark and Jones-Heroy principal Jason Jones said there are concerns not just about water pressure in specific northwestern parts of town, but also about the overall service capacity in the city's entire upper pressure plane -- generally areas west of Porter Street. Based on the city's current growth rate, the existing pump and pipeline system that takes water from the Spring Street pump station to the water tower on Nix Road will have insufficient service capacity within about four years, Jones said.

On Tuesday, Jones reviewed a written summary of items Jones-Heroy will analyze as part of its preliminary engineering study. Those items include:

- projected 5- and 10-year growth and water service needs, along with the capacity limitations of existing infrastructure.
- facilities needed to serve

areas, such as properties around Fawn Acres, more than 1,200 feet above sea level.

• a long-term solution to the concerns about the irrigation system at the FM 580 West Sports Park.

Jones-Heroy also will provide a recommendation about options for capital improvements to accommodate future growth. The firm will study the following options:

- increased capacity of the existing Spring Street pump station and the existing 12-inch water line to the upper pressure plane.
- a new pump station and water line loop from the water storage tank on Old Georgetown Road to the business park on U.S. Highway 183 South and the upper pressure plane.
- a new pump station at the abandoned Old Convent Road water storage tank, along with a water line loop to the upper pressure plane. This option would use the recently installed "Coleman loop" water line on the northwest side of town.

In addition, Jones said Jones-Heroy will recommend efficiency improvements for the sites where the city injects disinfectant chemicals into the water system.

Jones said the firm also will review the city's contract with Kempner Water Supply Corp. and recommend amendments related to the Old Georgetown Road storage tank and the sites at which water enters Lampasas from KWSC.

Potential contract amendments, Jones said, could help Lampasas and KWSC.

Jones-Heroy will prepare an engineer's opinion of probable construction costs for water system improvements it recommends for the city of Lampasas.

Jones told the council it will take about six months for Jones-Heroy to complete its analysis and issue its report.

Addressing another item that has been discussed at multiple recent meetings, the council decided not to give immediate funding for curb and gutter work on Chestnut

Street in front of First Presbyterian Church. The council voted, however, to make reimbursement a priority for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

In recent meetings, church representatives asked the council to fund curb and gutter adjustments to eliminate a drop-off at the pavement edge. The approximately six-inch drop-off poses a tripping hazard, church representatives said.

The total estimated cost of the work, based on quotes the city received, is about \$18,300. Public Works Director Rickie Roy and City Manager Finley deGraffenried, however, said there is no money for the curb and gutter work, unless the city pulls from what is budgeted for the rebuilding of West Avenue E.

Council members have emphasized the priority of the West Avenue E project, and officials discussed possibly waiting until the next fiscal year -- which will begin Oct. 1, 2020 -- to do the curb and gutter work.

Contractor Mike Hail, whose company has built First Presbyterian's new fellowship hall, said it would make sense -- and cost less -- to do the curb and gutter work now instead of waiting. He asked the council if the city would give a reimbursement later if his company proceeds with the curb and gutter work now.

The council voted to make city reimbursement for the curb and gutter work a priority for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The council will not make a final funding decision, however, until it approves the city budget in September 2020.

For that reason, the council followed deGraffenried's suggestion of authorizing city staff to negotiate a letter of understanding with the contractor.

"It would not commit any funds in future budgets to this project, however [the letter] would outline the terms of the potential reimbursement," the city manager said.

## Commissioners Court OKs change order for jail construction

FROM PAGE 1

firms in the future. A year or two ago, another firm expressed interest in performing an independent audit for the county, Carroll said.

He and Hoyer said the county is not allowed to accept bids for an audit. Hoyer said that is because an audit is classified as a "professional service" -- meaning the county must use qualifications, rather than price, to decide which firm to select.

If the Commissioners Court decides to issue a request for qualifications for next year, county officials probably need to begin planning around June or July 2020, Hoyer said.

In other unanimous votes at Tuesday's meeting, the Commissioners Court approved budget amendments for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2019, and it OK'd a change order for the jail construction project.

The jail change order, which adds \$2,943.20 to the construction cost, is for low-voltage conduit for the 911 communication system at the new facility, Hoyer and Sheriff Jess Ramos said.

Although he joined the rest of the court in voting for the change order, Carroll said the conduit "should have been done to start off with" instead of being added now.

Officials broke ground April 30, 2018 on the new jail and sheriff's office facility, located at 1210 Barnes St. on the south

end of town. General contractor Don Krueger Construction is working to finish the building by mid-January, Ramos said.

In another item at this week's meeting, the court voted unanimously to abandon a plat of Adamsville.

Commissioners said the abandonment of the 1908 plat -- which shows streets and lot lines -- does not affect the status of Adamsville as a community. Precinct 4 Commissioner Mark Rainwater said the vote will "clear up" potential property-related issues for the owner of the land, which is behind the store in Adamsville.

"For instance," Rainwater said, "if a game warden caught a trespasser here, there's a possibility there could be some conflicts -- legal issues -- just because [a person could say], 'Hey, this is platted. This is a city street.'"

Rainwater said he has been working with the property owner, Robert McIlroy III, and County Surveyor Paul Maples on the plat matter.

The property is a hay field and is unlikely to be developed, Rainwater said. The property probably is in a floodplain, he added.

The Commissioners Court has approved similar plat abandonments in the past, Rainwater said. One abandonment the court OK'd on the eastern outskirts of Lampasas was for a plat that dated to the 1800s, Rainwater said.

On another property-

related item Tuesday, the court unanimously approved a final plat for the KT Milam Subdivision -- about 10 acres being divided into two tracts off U.S. Highway 281 north of Lampasas, across from Little Lucy RV Resort.

Property owner Justin Milam said a 6-acre tract has four apartments on it and is under contract to sell -- possibly this week. The other tract, which is 3.95 acres, has a house on it, he said.

An attorney has drafted deed restrictions for the entire property, Milam said.

The Commissioners Court's vote to approve the final plat was contingent upon the county receiving plat documents on Mylar polyester film-coated paper.

## Lometa council hears update about street repair plan

BY CHERI JAY-WIENECKE  
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lometa City Council addressed several items in a meeting last week.

An open forum discussion with Precinct 3 County Commissioner Lewis Bridges related to street work.

The council has budgeted \$20,000 for street repairs, and Bridges anticipates starting on Lampasas Street within eight weeks. He told the council the street will be taken down to its base, with additional material added to repair defects in the roadway as needed.

Also in open forum, Arthur Resa voiced his willingness to contribute to the restoration of the historic Santa Fe Depot. He said the site could be used as a sheep shearing museum.

The council took no action regarding a warehouse off East Railway and Lampasas streets. Demolition of the unsafe portions of the structure was underway by the building's owner, Matthew Riggs, at the time of the meeting.

The council also approved the coordination of a burn ban policy with the county. Municipal bans on burning will coincide with the county burn bans.

The opening of a Bancorp non-interest-bearing bank account for the 2019 Fire Ambulance and Service Truck Fund grant was approved. The council tabled an item regard-

ing a resolution for the same grant.

The council voted to close the city's Bancorp Western Union bank account, as the city no longer takes payments for Western Union.

In an item pertaining to the election of directors for the

Lampasas Central Appraisal District for 2020-2021, the council voted to cast all 14 of the city's votes for David Barclay.

On another matter, Mayor Carlos Garcia announced the city's Hometown Holidays event will be held Dec. 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the fire station.

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