

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

## 2019 sees growth; sports legend dies, and new ones emerge

BY GAIL LOWE  
DISPATCH RECORD

Look back at the news of 2019 offers a quick summary of what transpired across the county this year in subjects ranging from sports to construction to business.

**RECORD PERFORMANCES**

Athletic accomplishments by Lampasas High School teams bookmarked what many residents recall as the best stories of 2019.

From the Lady Badgers' basketball playoff run to the track medals earned by Badger athletes at the state meet to the record-setting season in football, these standout performances played a big role in drawing the community together this year and fueling Lampasans' excitement about their town.

For more details, see today's Sports, pages 4-5.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Subdivision development and proposals for revitalization also made for big news this year.

Work continued on the Stone Valley subdivision off Nix Road in west Lampasas. Deorald Finney proposed the development more than 10 years ago, but after a collapse in the housing market in 2008, he postponed the filing of the final plat for his 67-residence subdivision until 2018.

Paving of new roads Stone Valley Drive (off Nix Road), Fieldstone Drive (which is an extension of Rice Street) and Sandstone Cove in the interior of the subdivision was completed in the spring. Drainage and infrastructure issues have been addressed, and home building is proceeding in earnest.

An incentive agreement Finney signed with the city requires him to complete at least 50% of the 67 proposed houses within five years.

Last Friday, Finney said he has built 13 Stone Valley houses, and sold five since October. He said he plans to build at least 10 more Stone Valley houses in 2020 -- and "hopefully a lot more."

Developers Steven McDonald and Chris Harrison of S2M2 Inc. have worked out terms for a residential neighborhood they plan to construct in east Lampasas.

Brodie Estates will offer 22 lots south of the intersection of Brown and Cloud streets. Two new streets -- to be named Elijah Lane and Blain Circle -- will be cul-de-sacs that connect to Brown.

The city's economic incentive package for this development requires S2M2 to complete the Brodie Estates subdivision within four years.

While these subdivisions proceed within the Lampasas city limits, another area of

residential development has garnered approval in the east end of the county.

The River Place subdivision northwest of Kempner is set to expand, as the Lampasas County Commissioners Court approved the Phase II preliminary plat in May. The development off FM 2313 will offer 91 residential lots.

And 2019 brought completion of the city's new Council Chambers/Municipal Court facility, as an open house was held Dec. 16 to show off the community meeting place. In a dedication ceremony, the renovated 1931 structure at 302 E. Third St. was named the Jack Calvert Municipal Building.

The most extensive building project for the county -- the new jail and law enforcement center on Barnes Street -- is expected to reach completion in early 2020.

Groundbreaking took place in April 2018, and the new jail is projected to open in February. Sheriff Jess Ramos offered county justices of the peace and other officials a tour of the facility in November.

In other news, officials unanimously rejected a public improvement district proposal in August that would have brought a nature resort and housing development on 3,200 acres on the west side of the county.

TALA Resorts Inc. had proposed the creation of a five-star wilderness resort, plus 250-300 custom homesites on



Badger Hall of Fame member Johnny "Lam" Jones died in March, and Lampasas High School had one of its best years ever for the overall athletic program. Pictured at Jones' funeral in Austin are, left to right, 2019 varsity mile relay members Luke Palacios, Cameron Everts, Thomas Cavalieri, Ace Whitehead and Brady Carroll; and two of Jones' 1976 state-champion teammates, Tom Lancaster and Mike Perkins.

JEFF LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Jackson Ranch property that stretches from FM 580 West near Nix to the Colorado River. The public improvement district designation would have allowed bond financing in the county's name to fund infrastructure expenses for the project.

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court rejected the PID after receiving

extensive public testimony.

TALA Resorts had estimated the project would have created 173 fulltime jobs and brought \$2.6 million in property tax revenue to the county annually. County residents and

commissioners, however, voiced concerns about the 1 million gallons of water per day that would be needed for the development, how sewage waste would be discharged, and what the effects would be on the Hill

Country environment.

**BUSINESS NEWS**

The Market Place at Sulphur Creek is a 36,000-square-foot development that is expected to

SEE JAIL, PAGE 9



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Resa, right, caught a 70-pound flathead catfish in June. Although the reported weight of the fish outmatched the existing TPWD record for the river, as of Dec. 23, the department had not recognized Resa's catch as a new record. Resa is shown with his fishing tournament partner Kevin Harris.



JIM LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

Cisneros Concrete owner Efren Cisneros, front right, and his crew pour the first slab for a home in the Stone Valley subdivision in west Lampasas.

**WEATHER**

Date	High	Low	Rain
Dec. 22	62	29	0
Dec. 23	71	39	0
Dec. 24	70	42	0
Dec. 25	68	48	0

Rainfall so far this year: 23.42 in.

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

**BRIEFLY**

**BURN BAN AND FIREWORKS**

A countywide burn ban is in effect, prohibiting outdoor fires outside incorporated city limits. A violation of the burn ban is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

Also, the Lampasas County Commissioners Court has prohibited the sale or use of fireworks classified as "skyrockets with sticks" or "missiles with fins" outside incorporated city limits.

The prohibition will end at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 2 or when the Texas A&M Forest Service determines drought conditions no longer exist in the county -- whichever is earlier.

A violation of the fireworks order is a Class C misdemeanor.

**OFFICE CLOSURES**

The Lampasas Dispatch Record's office will be closed Wednesday for New Year's Day. County offices will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday,

and the city of Lampasas will be closed Wednesday.

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**

In a called meeting Monday, the Lampasas County Commissioners Court approved a series of private road numbers. For drives off Blakely Road in the east end of the county, the court OK'd the numbers 3801 through 3804. For roads off FM 580 East, the court approved the road numbers 3601-3604, plus 3641-3644.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION  
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST  
**AWARD WINNER**  
2018  
lampasasdispatchrecord.com  
512-556-6262  
416 S. Live Oak St.  
Lampasas TX 76550  
© Hill Country Publishing Co., Inc.

**TexAir HVAC INC**  
HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • ELECTRICAL  
**512-556-8695**  
NEW LOCATION!  
107 N. Key Ave. • Mon.-Fri. 8 AM - 4 PM  
www.texairhvacinc.com

Looking for your little slice of heaven?  
Talk to the Real Estate Lending experts at MCBank!

**MCBANK**  
Reese Vann | 512-564-3425  
www.mcbanktx.com  
NMLS #1220314  
NMLS #442123  
Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Happy New Year  
**Ranch Investments**  
Texas Premier Farm & Ranch Brokerage  
Lampasas Office located at  
506 S. Key Avenue, Suite B  
512-556-5223 or 800-447-8604