

Lampasas Police Department officer sworn in

FROM PAGE 1

from the Central Texas College Police Academy in 2019.

Boivin formerly worked as a deputy for the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery said. He began field training with the police department in November.

In other matters, the council approved the Lampasas Fire Department's \$63,509 purchase of two LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillators. Fire Chief Jeff Smith said the department will purchase the machines with CARES Act funding.

The city received six proposals from contractors for the construction of a skate park and four proposals for the construction of a pavilion at Campbell Park. Staff ranked Austin-based SPA Skateparks and Lampasas-based Lamco Construction as the best qualified to complete the projects.

Council members voted unanimously to allow city staff to negotiate the scope and cost of each project with the highest-ranked firms.

During the citizen-comments portion of the meeting, former councilman Mike White said his father-in-law's house at the end of



MADELINE MILLER | DISPATCH RECORD

During a Lampasas City Council meeting last week, Municipal Judge Robert Gradel swears in Dylan Boivin -- accompanied by his wife and son -- as a Lampasas Police Department officer. Boivin graduated from Lampasas High School and previously served as a deputy at the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office.

Brown Street was struck by a vehicle recently. White said this marks the fifth time a vehicle has failed to follow the road as it curves to meet

Hillcrest Street and struck the property.

White asked the City Council to consider installing barriers or

reflective arrows along the road's curve to prevent vehicles from ending up on his father-in-law's property. Assistant City Manager

Rickie Roy said staff is working to install posts, signage and lights along the road.

Council members voted to approve a specific-use permit to allow for a vapor store at 1708 Central Texas Expressway Suite 3.

Councilwoman Cathy Kuehne voted to oppose the measure.

Council members also approved a specific-use permit to allow for a portable storage building at 1002 E. Fourth St., so long as the storage building is used as an accessory to the main structure on the property and is not rented commercially.

Kuehne opposed the measure, as the property owner did not apply for a permit before building the unit, as is required.

The Lampasas Heritage Foundation donated seven sets of concrete benches and tables for placement at Campbell Park, and the council unanimously OK'd the \$7,500 purchase of seven concrete pads for the benches.

Council members also voted to use \$100,000 it received from the CARES Act to reimburse the Lampasas Economic Development Corp. for the cost of providing

financial aid to local businesses this spring.

During his monthly report, City Manager Finley deGraffenried said the 2019 Texas Department of Transportation traffic count indicates traffic on Key Avenue between Fourth Street and North Avenue has increased 6% to 20,192 vehicles daily since the 2018 count.

He also reported that the city's bandwidth upgrade, which will improve operations for local businesses and first responders, is complete.

DeGraffenried said Finance Director Yvonne Moreno has worked for the city for 23 years, and Library Director Shanda Subia has worked for the city 14 years. He thanked them for their service.

Council members approved amendments to the 2019-2020 budget, allowing for the addition of \$400,000 to the general fund and \$4,500 to the golf course budget.

After conferring in an executive session, the council voted to negotiate a public utility easement adjacent to the Hillside Acres subdivision to allow for the extension of utilities to the development.

County, state jobless rate rises; national rate drops slightly

Texas' unemployment rate (8.1%) in November rose above the national rate (6.7%), while Lampasas County's rate ticked up to 6%.

The 6% rate was Lampasas County's highest since May, an increase from October's 4.8% rate.

"As Texas businesses and job seekers adapt to changes in our economy, we can expect continued fluctuations, but TWC will continue to respond

to trending needs and offer resources to workers and businesses that bolster the state's economy," Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Bryan Daniel said.

Lampasas County's lowest unemployment rate of the year was 3.3% in February. It peaked at 8.2% in April and consistently dropped through August but has fluctuated some in the past few months.

Although state jobless numbers were higher, there was still growth in certain sectors.

In November, the Trade, Transportation and Utilities industry added 25,800 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality added 20,400 jobs, and Construction added 7,500 jobs, TWC reported.

The nationwide unemployment rate has dropped every month since April, when it was 14.7%.

COUNTIES' NOVEMBER JOBLESS RATES, AND COMPARISON TO OCTOBER'S

- Bell County 7.5%, up from 6.2%
- Burnet County 5.2%, up from 4.2%
- Coryell County 7%, up from 5.8%
- Hamilton County 5.8%, up from 4.4%
- Lampasas County 6%, up from 4.8%

Mills County 5.5%, up from 4%

San Saba County 5.1%, up from 3.9%

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DISTRICT COURT

Lampasas County 27th District Court convened Dec. 18 with Judge John Gauntt presiding over the day's hearings.

Bond was found insufficient for Adrian Louis Navarro of Lampasas, on a charge of indecency with a child-sexual contact. A capias warrant was issued, and Navarro was booked into Burnet County Jail on Dec. 18.

The remainder of the cases heard last week received new court dates.

Arrestment was moved to Jan. 8, 2021 for Logan Dale Faught of Lampasas, on one charge of engaging in organized

criminal activity and one charge of prohibited substance/item in a correctional facility.

Faught also has an adjudication announcement that was reset for Jan. 8 on a charge of indecency with a child-sexual contact.

Arrestment was moved to Jan. 8 for Max Castaneda Jr. of Lampasas, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram. He also has an adjudication hearing planned for Jan. 8 on a separate charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Pretrial hearings were moved to Feb. 5 for Noel Ishmael

Graves-Medina of Lampasas, on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle and a charge of injury to a child/elderly/disabled person with intent to cause bodily injury. Waivers of arraignment were filed on both charges.

Pretrial hearing was moved to Feb. 12 for Johnny Ray Morris of Copperas Cove, on a charge of sex abuse of a child-continuous: victim under 14.



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ARRESTS

The following arrests were reported to the Lampasas Dispatch Record by area law enforcement officials. The Dispatch Record prints the name and charge(s) of people arrested on at least one Class B misdemeanor - or more serious - charge.

DEC. 19

Nikeia Monique Baker, 35, of Lampasas was arrested on a charge of making a false alarm or report.

Raul Vidaurri, 30, of Lometa was arrested on a charge of making a terroristic threat or interruption in a public place.

DEC. 18

Mark Zeniff Alger, 55, of Austin was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Matthew Freeman Bowden, 39, of Belton was arrested on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear-felony.

John Calvin Dobbins III, 30, of Victoria was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram-methamphetamine.

DEC. 16

William Derek Groves, 46, of Lampasas was arrested for a warrant on a charge of possession of marijuana more than 4 ounces and less than or equal to 5 pounds.

Charles James Cadle, 34,

of Kempner was arrested on charges of aggravated robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and theft of a firearm.

Kayla Ashley Pierce, 33, of Killeen was arrested on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, and Coryell County charges of burglary of a habitation and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

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- Jim & Gail Lowe