

# Casino Night postponed

The Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, Kiwanis Club and Lampasas Lions Club have announced they will postpone the 2021 Casino Night, originally set for Feb. 20 at the Lampasas County Livestock Center.

“Casino Night is an important fundraiser and has been a staple in the community for years,” chamber executive director Melissa Unger said. “While this [postponement] was not an easy decision, a recent increase in COVID cases in the county required us to take hard look at several aspects of the event, especially the timing.”

Officials from the sponsoring organizations decided it was in the best interest of the community to reschedule the event.

“Our hope is with time, a decrease in cases and the implementation of safety protocols, we will be able to resume planning and host the event later this year,” Unger said.

“We appreciate your patience during this time as we work hard to make sure our communities’ citizens and visitors stay safe,” she added. “We will update everyone with more information as it becomes available.”



Participants enjoy festivities at the 2020 Wild West Casino Night hosted by Vision Lampasas. This year’s event has been postponed.

# Managing insect pests on houseplants

BY MELINDA MYERS  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH RECORD



MELINDAMYERS.COM | COURTESY PHOTO

Scale insects may be dining on your houseplants if you notice a sticky substance on its leaves and bumps on the upper and lower surface of the plant’s leaves and stems.

A sticky substance on plant leaves, plant stands and the floor are often the first clue alerting gardeners to a problem on houseplants. If a closer look reveals bumps on the upper and lower surface of leaves and stems, it means scale insects have moved in to dine on your plants.

Severe infestations can cause leaf yellowing, stunting and dieback of the plant. If you have battled these insects, you know they can be challenging to control. Arm yourself with an understanding of their lifecycle and be persistent to successfully manage these pests.

Scale insects have needle-like mouthparts that allow them to pierce the leaf and stem surfaces. They suck plant sap through a tube-like structure just as if they were drinking from a straw. These are one of several insects that secrete drops of a clear, sticky substance, called honeydew, as they feed.

A black fungus known as sooty mold may grow on the honeydew. It does not directly harm the plant, but it looks bad. In severe cases, sooty mold can prevent sunlight from reaching the leaves, causing them to yellow.

Adult scale insects form coverings that protect them from adverse environmental conditions and most chemical controls. Eggs hatch under this protective covering and the immature scale, called crawlers, emerge looking for a place to feed. Once settled, the crawler continues to grow, shedding layers of skin. These layers of shed skin, or waxy layers, form their protective covering.

Isolate infected plants as soon as you discover the problem. This will reduce the risk of this pest spreading to your other plants.

You can remove the adult scales with a toothpick, tweezers or an old toothbrush. Repeat every few weeks until you have the pest under control. This may be sufficient to control small populations, but if you miss even one adult the problem persists.

The crawler stage is the most susceptible to chemical control. You will need a hand lens or magnifying glass to see these short-lived crawlers. Insecticides and washing small plants with a plant-safe soapy water solution can help manage small populations. Cover the pot and soil to prevent any scale knocked off during the bath from crawling back onto the plant.

Increase your chance of success with the help of an organic insecticide like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil (SummitResponsible Solutions.com). This lightweight oil suffocates and controls all stages of the scale insect, including the adult and eggs housed under the protective covering. Repeat applications are needed to get this insect under control.

This product is safe for people and pets while harmful to this and other houseplant pests. As always, read and follow label directions for the most effective results.

Clean the pot, saucers, plant stands and the area around infested plants to remove any honeydew and unseen crawlers. This, along with proper control, will reduce the risk of these insects infesting treated and nearby plants.

Continue to monitor plants for scale and other insects each time you water. It is much easier to manage small populations than larger infestations on more plants.

MELINDA MYERS has written more than 20 gardening books, including “Small Space Gardening.” She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally syndicated “Melinda’s Garden Moment” TV and radio program. Myers’ website is www.melindamyers.com.

# Two Lampasas County residents elected to Realtors association board

Danielle Tucker Shepard, a Lampasas real estate broker, and Kempner Realtor Shurece Amador were elected by Fort Hood Area Association of Realtors members to serve on the organization’s Board of Directors. They will serve three-year terms.

Shepard, a 1989 Lampasas High School graduate, is the owner and broker at Always Here Properties, LLC in Harker Heights. She has been involved in the Lampasas community

and surrounding areas and said she is proud to represent the Lampasas area on the Board of Directors, according to a news release.

Amador is a longtime area resident and an agent with Always Here Properties. She said she is excited to help buyers and sellers in the area, according to the release.

Shepard will serve as chairperson of the FHAAR Education Committee. Amador will serve on the Government Affairs Committee.



Danielle Tucker Shepard



Shurece Amador

# Software engineering program offered to active-duty military

Galvanize, a coding and data-science training firm, will offer its Operation LevelUp program from Jan. 25 through June 4 to Fort Hood soldiers.

Operation LevelUp is an 18-month programming, web development and software engineering education program offered exclusively to active-duty military personnel.

According to the

Galvanize website, the program “trains soldiers in their last six months of active-duty service to prepare for a career in software engineering upon their transition to civilian life.”

The program is taught in-person at the Fort Hood campus in Austin, and tuition is paid in full by the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

Visit galvanize.com/level-up-career-skills-program for more information.

# COLLEGE HONORS

## TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Zoé M. Bradley of Lampasas was named to the Tarleton State University dean’s list after earning a 3.75 GPA during the fall 2020 semester.

To make the dean’s list, students must earn a GPA of at least 3.5 and carry at least 12 credit hours.

Bradley studies at the university’s Stephenville campus and is working toward majors in agriculture education and kinesiology.

She was inducted into the Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society last fall.

# Lampasas officials hear update about concerns at U.S. 281 high school

BY MADELEINE MILLER  
DISPATCH RECORD

In a report at last week’s Lampasas City Council meeting, Chief of Police Sammy Bailey said the police department has been working to prevent vehicles traveling on U.S. Highway 281 from running the red light at the highway’s intersection with the high school.

Council members and Patrol Lt. Chuck Montgomery had discussed problems at that intersection at the Dec. 14 council meeting after the city and police department received concerns from area residents.

Bailey said School Resource Officer Eric Hernandez suggested the timing of the traffic-light cycle may be off, so the Texas Department of Transportation increased the light’s lag time to 30 seconds. Officers have observed fewer vehicles failing to stop since the adjustment was made, the police chief said.

TxDOT also added signs north of the intersection alerting southbound drivers to the upcoming traffic signal, Bailey said, and she received notice on Dec. 19 that the highway department plans to install a flashing beacon light north of the intersection.

Bailey said the police department also is

monitoring the intersections of FM 580 East and Key Avenue, and that of U.S. 190 at U.S. 281 to ensure vehicles travel at proper speeds and heed traffic lights and stop signs.

In other matters at the Jan. 11 council meeting, council members voted to approve the rezoning of 907 E. Third St. from light industrial to two-family residential. City Secretary Becky Sims said the owners intend to develop a duplex on the property.

Assistant City Manager Rickie Roy reported on recent public works departments’ operations.

Roy said the Water/Wastewater Department employees collected nine routine Bac-T samples from the water distribution system this month, which all passed. They removed 225 yards of cake from the wastewater treatment facility.

Electric Department personnel laid underground lines for several entities, including Brodie Estates and Lampasas Assisted Living, Roy said.

The Street Department completed its work this year on East Avenue E, he said.

In other matters at last week’s meeting, council members voted to authorize the city manager to finalize and execute a utility development agreement with

CNB Lampasas investors.

They also voted to appoint Councilwoman Catherine Kuehne to the Guthrie Library Committee.

During his city manager’s report, Finley deGraffenried said city staff were scheduled to meet last week with the highest-rated contractors for the Campbell Park pavilion and skate park projects, and a bike trail developer will visit Lampasas at the end of the month to review the 580 Sports Complex site.

In a final action, the council OK’d a joint election agreement between the city and the Lampasas Independent School District to hold municipal and trustee elections simultaneously on May 1.

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# word search

## BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

E N K K W G C O E Q R R B B W H H X I Y  
Q E U G R O E K A X E A E H G P T P C T  
U T S O W L L U N C P T E F W R W P R I  
I L S A B Y D F E K L E T R F O O R E L  
T S A A D I H I H D A L N R P F R O D I  
Y I Y R T M V W N S O D A S O I G D I B  
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H B D T O C Q B Y S Q N Y D V O C D D D  
B U D G E T I N V E S T O R E K O R B A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

- ACCOUNT
- ADMINISTRATION
- ASSET
- AUDIT
- BROKER
- BUDGET
- BUSINESS
- CASH FLOW
- COLLATERAL
- COMMODITY
- CREDIT
- DEBT
- DEMAND
- EQUITY
- EXPENSES
- FISCAL
- GROSS
- GROWTH
- GUARANTEE
- INCOME
- INVESTOR
- LIABILITY
- LOAN
- LOSS
- NET
- PAYABLE
- PAYROLL
- PRICING
- PRODUCT
- PROFIT
- RECEIVABLE
- SERVICE
- STATEMENT
- STOCK
- SUPPLY
- TAXES

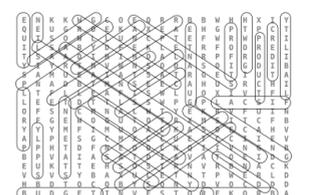
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