

## Tatum declines JP appointment Commissioners Court picks Wakeman

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

Just days after the Lampasas County Commissioners Court selected Michael Tatum to serve the unexpired term for Precinct 1 justice of the peace, he declined the offer.

During a called meeting Monday, County Judge Randy Hoyer said he received a letter from Tatum — a law enforcement teacher at Lampasas High School — Thursday afternoon turning down the appointment to replace longtime JP Andrew Garcia Jr.

Garcia announced his retirement in early August. His last day in office is Sept. 30.

“Thank you for offering me the great honor and opportunity to serve Lampasas County as Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1,” Tatum’s letter said. “After careful consideration, I determined that this was not the right choice for myself, my family, or my students at Lampasas Independent School District at the present time. Therefore, I must respectfully decline this appointment.”

“I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this decision may cause,” the letter said. “I truly appreciate your time, consideration and patience as I deliberated this difficult decision.

Please extend my apologies and gratitude to the Lampasas County Precinct Commissioners.”

After a short executive session Monday, the Commissioners Court selected County Clerk Misty Wakeman for the JP position. Wakeman has worked with Garcia throughout his tenure as justice of the peace, totaling 14 years.

Garcia told the Dispatch Record the court made the right decision in selecting Wakeman. “She works so hard in this office, and I know she would do the absolute best job as justice of the peace,” Garcia said.

After her selection, Wakeman told the Dispatch Record she was shocked and grateful.

“I’ve worked super-hard to get here and thankful that Judge Garcia has taken me under his wing and helped me learn all the ends and outs of the full office,” Wakeman said. “I look forward to continuing serving the people of Lampasas County.”

Wakeman’s first day as JP is Oct. 1.



Misty Wakeman



Michael Tatum



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | DISPATCH RECORD

## Bar 17 Arena hosts team penning competition

Chandy Mullins bumps out one of the cows for her team during the group’s run in the open class event of the Bertram Team Penning Club competition at Bar 17 Arena on Saturday. Bar 17 will host another competition for the club on Oct. 16.

## Lampasas reopens search for new assistant city manager

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

Lampasas’ search for a new assistant city manager has reopened.

City Manager Finley deGraffenried put a hold on the search in late July after the selected candidate rescinded his job offer shortly after accepting a position at another Texas city.

City officials had advertised the vacant position through the newspaper, social media outlets and the Texas Municipal League’s career center, resulting in more than 30 applications.

During last week’s Lampasas City Council meeting, deGraffenried said his office notified the previous candidates of the city’s intention to re-open the search.

“Current candidates will be included for consideration unless they notify the city otherwise,” deGraffenried said.

The search comes after the July retirement of former assistant city manager Rickie Roy, who also served as public works director.

According to the city’s

website, the assistant city manager provides leadership and direction to municipal operations and departments as directed by the city manager.

The selected person would act on behalf of deGraffenried in his absence.

The city has not yet announced what it will do about the vacant public works director position.

No information on salary range was available with the city’s job posting.

In other matters last week, the city approved a quarantine leave policy for its public safety employees.

The paid leave — specifically “due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty” — would be added to the leave balances public safety employees already accrue, Chief of Police Sammy Bailey said.

Many Texas cities and counties have adopted similar policies following the passage of House Bill 2073 that allows paid quarantine leave to all public safety employees.

HB 2073 passed unanimously during the recent 87th legislative session.



HUNTER KING | DISPATCH RECORD

## LHS crowns Homecoming royalty

Quinn Pace was named 2021 Lampasas High School Homecoming king. Jara Stephens was crowned Homecoming queen during halftime of Friday’s varsity football game against China Spring. For details about the game, see page 4.



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | DISPATCH RECORD

## Organization holds artifact, gem, mineral show

Nate Reed, left, and John Edmondson talk about their collections of arrowheads at the Indian Artifact & Mineral and Gem Show, which Vision Lampasas held Saturday at the county livestock show barn.

## County budget eliminates human resources department

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

After eight and a half years of funding a human resources department, the Lampasas County Commissioners Court decided to eliminate the division effective Oct. 1.

County Judge Randy Hoyer said the decision was to move the duties back to the County Treasurer’s office “as it used to be several years ago.”

“This decision was made in the best interest of the county,” Hoyer said, adding that no other major cuts were made in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

If there is a need for an HR department, the Commissioners

Court will bring it back up for discussion in its next round of budget talks, Hoyer said.

The human resources department was created in December 2012. Former Elections Administrator Dorothy Person, who has assisted the county auditor’s office with human

resource matters since 2010, served as the full-time human resources director.

In June 2017, Rebecca Ramos took the helm as director. Her last day is Sept. 30.

Hoyer told the Dispatch Record Ramos did a

“great service as provided in her position as HR director.”

Ramos said her office is a “one-person department.”

In a statement to the Dispatch Record, Ramos said she “had the pleasure of being the voice for all Lampasas County employees, to include the elected, the department heads and the hourly” since June 2017.

“I am proud of the well-deserved salary increases and benefits I fought

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### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Sept. 16	89	70	0
Sept. 17	94	67	0
Sept. 18	92	72	0
Sept. 19	94	73	0

Total rainfall for 2021: 20.49 in.

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

### BRIEFLY

#### WINE TOUR

The Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center will host the Lampasas County Wine Tour on Saturday. The tour will feature stops and tastings at several wineries in the area.

The event will start at 9 a.m. at the chamber. Chartered transportation to the wineries will leave about 10 a.m. Guests will receive a goodie bag and boxed lunch. The bus will arrive back at the chamber about 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 per person. For chamber members and groups of four or more (if tickets are bought together), there is a \$5 discount per ticket.

For more details or to purchase tickets, call 512-556-5172, or email lampasaschamber@sbcglobal.net.

#### RANGE TOUR

A Lampasas & Mills Range Tour is set for Sept. 29 at the Haney Ranch, 760 U.S. Highway 183 South in Goldthwaite.

The range tour will address soil health, plant identification, and management of grazing, brush and weeds. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the program will start at 9 a.m. The registration fee is \$10.

Event organizers request pre-registration by Sept. 28. To register, contact the AgriLife office in Lampasas at 512-556-8271 or lampasas-tx@tamu.edu. Or, contact the Mills County office at 325-648-2650 or at mills-tx@tamu.edu.

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