

## Kempner council approves street light

By MAT TAYLOR  
Special Correspondent

Kempner City Council in a recent meeting approved the installation of a street light at the intersection of U.S. Highway 190 and Peach Street, two blocks east of downtown Kempner.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will install the light.

At a previous meeting, Kempner resident Walter Prugh requested the council consider a light at the location, saying it is a dangerous intersection because of the way the highway curves, and it is difficult to see the intersection at night. A light would make it safer for drivers, he added.

Mayor Gene Isenhour said he contacted the Hamilton County utility co-op and was told the cost would be \$1,575 to install a pole, transformer and light. A monthly fee of about \$10 also would be assessed.

The owner of the property indicated he would pay the monthly fee, Isenhour said.

The only concern voiced by the mayor and council members was that Kempner officials may be set-

ting a precedent, and other citizens would want a street light, too. The city could not afford that expense, they indicated.

"I wish we could install more street lights, but this is a unique situation on a major U.S. highway," the mayor said. "In the future, any other street lights will be based on safety and feasibility."

In other business, Preston Singleton presented the city's 2007 fiscal year audit, saying Kempner is in good financial condition. The audit showed the city's total revenue for FY 2007 was \$184,545.

"Of this, 39 percent came from property taxes, 26 percent from sales taxes, 16 percent from franchise fees, and 14 percent from the Municipal Court and other fees," said Singleton. "Total expenditures for 2007, including all departments, were \$123,000. That left an ending fund balance of \$152,000, cash and other assets, and that is a good indication of the city's good financial condition."

The CPA's only recommendations were for Kempner to designate a fund balance for certain purposes such as capital improvements, and to adopt an investment

policy and designate an investment officer. Isenhour said one designated fund could be set up and used possibly to purchase the building where City Hall is located.

In another item, the council approved the audit, an investment policy and designated the city secretary as the investment officer. Isenhour said all the city's investments are in TexPool.

Also last week, the council OK'd the sale of a surplus police vehicle to a private individual for \$500. This was the first serious offer received since the vehicle was posted for sale months earlier.

If the vehicle had not sold, it was the council's intention to donate the car to the Kempner Volunteer Fire Department for its annual fund-raising auction. "As the vehicle was purchased with taxpayers' money, this money should go back into the Police Department fund," Isenhour said.

In another item concerning the department, Police Chief Doug Kahlstrom presented the 2007 Racial Profiling Report. The state mandates all law enforcement agencies report local statistics to their governing body each year.

"Our department supports the Texas legislative mandate for community racial profiling in Texas, and we work under a policy consistent under all state and federal laws," Kahlstrom said.

"Citizens may contact the department to report any conflict with any officer for information on how to file a complaint."

The police chief added that it is the goal of the Kempner Police Department to provide citizens with a safe community and maintain the confidence, respect and support of all citizens.

The report for last year shows Kempner police officers made 372 stops. Of these, 299 were white drivers, 40 Hispanic, 27 black, four were Asians, and two were from other ethnic backgrounds. The report indicates no one was stopped based on his or her creed or color. The department did not receive any complaints on racial profiling during the year.

Before conclusion of the meeting, Isenhour said only the current council members up for election have filed for a seat on the governing body. March 14 is the last date to file for the May 10 election.



COURTESY PHOTOS

### Increased turnout

Clementine Lewis, above, standing, was elected chair of Precinct 8's delegation to the Lampasas County Democratic Party's March 29 county convention, and Al Burns, in hat, below, was elected chairman of the Precinct 10 Democratic caucus. The Precinct 8 caucus drew 40 people, compared to just two in 2006, and 11 Democrats attended the Precinct 10 caucus -- 10 more than in 2006.



## Lampasas Democrat eyes runoff in railroad commissioner race

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and Wylie killed homeowners. Investigations later revealed the blasts resulted partly from loose compression couplings installed by Atmos Energy.

"When people died at Cleburne and Wylie, nobody did anything about it," Thompson said. "They just thought it would be easier to pay off the families (of the victims)."

The Hamilton man said he would have made Atmos replace the couplings at the first sign of loosening. He also plans to lower gas utility rates and limit saltwater injection at drilling sites.

Thompson said the oil and gas industries exercise undue influence on the Railroad Commission, so he believes his lack of connections to those industries would make him an effective commissioner.

"All my buddies are not in the oil and gas industry," he said.

In his more than 130 speeches during the campaign, Henry, on the other hand, has emphasized his experience in oil and gas, a record he said voters trust.

"I have been involved in oil and gas my whole life, and that's very important to the people of this state," Henry said.

The candidate has run for the Railroad Commission before and said he typically does well in El Paso, along the Mexican border and in Dallas County. Henry and his wife, Ruth, have visited almost every county during the current campaign.

"We had a real good reception everywhere we went," Henry said. "Across the state, we have really good name recognition."

## Ceremony held at new LHS campus location

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beginning of the 2009-10 school term in August 2009, we have to get started. It is an 18-month project, and we have no time to waste."

The superintendent said he appreciated everyone who supported the district in its efforts to upgrade facilities.

"I'm thankful for anyone who had a part in this. It is one of the biggest things to happen in the Lampasas community in a long time. And it wouldn't have happened if not for a lot of people who went to extreme lengths to see it through."

Said Myers: "This is an important project. It is our children who will benefit the most, and that is how it should be."

"We are all very excited and ready to get going with this."

At Wednesday's ceremony, dignitaries on hand included Mayor Judith Hetherly; City Manager Michael Stoldt; County Judge Wayne Boultinghouse; Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee Chairmen Ron Kuker and Chuck Williamson; co-chairs of the political-action committee that campaigned for new facilities, J.W. Hutcherson, Valarie Dickensen and Tina Loeffler; Rick Burnight, the architect from Austin-based O'Connell Robertson; Blair Williams, construction manager at risk; Tom Dahl, representing Texas Department of Transportation; and Charles Pence, donor of the school site.

## Lampasas ISD has contested race as filing continues

Filing for City Council seats in Lampasas, Lometa and Kempner, and school board positions in Lampasas and Lometa continues through Monday.

Early voting will run April 28 through May 6, with elections set for May 10.

Following is a list of seats open for filing.

**Lampasas City Council:** Up for election are the seats of Debbie Fuller, Place 3; Wanda Bierschwale, Place 4; and Les Gerhardt, Place 5.

All three incumbents have filed for their seats.

Those who wish to file may do so at City Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with City

Secretary Cherry Hargrove, or assistant city secretaries Christina Marez and Ursula Paddie.

**Lometa City Council:** Seats to be on the ballot in May include those of the mayor, held by David Ivey who was appointed after the death of Mike McGarry, and at-large seats of Cynthia Kirby, George Watson and Toni Torres. The seat filled by Kyle Walton when Ivey was appointed mayor also is up for election.

Ivey has filed for the mayor's post, and Walton and Mrs. Kirby have filed for their seats.

Filing is at the Lometa Municipal Building weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with City Secretary Michelle Schueneman.

**Kempner City Council:**

Positions open for balloting are those of the mayor, Gene Isenhour; Paul Cook, Place 1; and Melba Vandever, Place 5.

All three have filed for re-election.

Filing is at Kempner City Hall, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with City Secretary Frances Spinney or Assistant City Secretary Trudy Davis.

**Lampasas ISD Board of Trustees:** Benjie Tischler has charge of candidate filing at the Human Resources Department behind the District Administration Building. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY JIM LOWE

Fire struck at the Morgan Roberts residence at 807 Casbeer St. Monday afternoon. Officials determined lint in a dryer was the cause of the fire. The house sustained heavy smoke damage. No one was home at the time of the blaze.

## County jail sentence handed down for DWI

In recent 27th District Court action, Judge Joe Carroll sentenced James Craig Groves, 37, of Lampasas to six months in the Lampasas County Jail and 18 months' probation for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition, which was prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

Groves also must pay a \$750 fine and had his driver's license suspended for six months.

In other court proceedings, Rodney Joel Key, 50, of Lampasas was sentenced to six years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division, probated to six years. He must pay a \$1,000 fine and court costs, and was ordered to attend an alcohol treatment facility.

Key was charged with driving while intoxicated and felony repetition.

An arrest warrant was issued, and bond was increased to \$50,000 for Joe Harvey Hardin, 37, when he failed to show up for court on a charge of driving while intoxicated and felony repetition.

Curtis Byron Crumley III, 21, of Lampasas also did not report for

court on his case of criminal mischief with a deadly weapon. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and bond was set at \$10,000.

A case of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, against 18-year-old Lowell Preston Garza of Lampasas was punished as a misdemeanor. Garza was sentenced to six months in county jail, and must pay court costs and restitution.

Carroll also amended Garza's probation on an injury to a child/serious bodily injury charge and ordered him to attend an inpatient treatment facility within 12 months of serving his jail sentence.

Amy Jo Pitcher, 39, of Lampasas was assessed three years' deferred adjudication probation and a \$1,000 fine plus court costs for possession of a controlled substance. She also must serve 30 days in the Lampasas County Jail, followed by outpatient drug rehabilitation.

Albert Alvarado, 26, of Lampasas was given three years' deferred adjudication probation and a \$1,000 fine for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine. He also must pay court costs.

Jury trials are set Monday for Brenda Sue Gaines, 32, of Killeen on a forgery charge and for Duane Cole Myers, 45, of Lampasas for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Harker Heights resident Holli Elise Ricketts, 42, had her arraignment on a forgery charge reset to March 14.

A revocation hearing is expected March 14 for Roger D. Dean, 23, of Copperas Cove for burglary of a habitation.

An adjudication announcement was reset to March 14 for Diane Renteria Hernandez, 50, of Lubbock. She is charged with possession of a controlled substance, cocaine.

Also next week, the judge is to hear a plea from Jose Andrade Moreno, 31, of Lometa for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition, as well as bond jumping.

Pretrial hearings are scheduled March 28 for Thomas Edward Austerberry, 23, of Harker Heights for evading arrest with a vehicle and Joshua Steven Joswick, 19, for

evading arrest with a vehicle.

A pretrial hearing is on the April 11 docket for Wesley Gene Talbert, 29, of Lampasas for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Earnest Harold Smiley, 58, is set to enter a plea May 9 for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition. A presentence investigation was ordered.

May 12 jury trials are slated for Douglas Lynn McGuffey, 21, for possession of a controlled substance; James Worth Nesom, 51, for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger; Clay Cory Havins, 41, for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition; and Dale Roy Noordam, 33, for possession of a controlled substance.

On a charge of theft over \$20,000 and under \$100,000, Dublin resident Richard Thurston House, 22, is set for a July 28 jury trial.

The state dismissed a charge of theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000 against April Dawn Smith, 28, of Lampasas. The case will be refiled in county court.

### Cattle Auction

The report from the Feb. 27 sale at Lampasas Cattle Auction follows.

**Cattle and calves:** Estimated receipts 754 compared to 595 last week and 749 last year. Feeder steers and heifers steady; slaughter cows and bulls steady. In the feeder supply, steers made up approximately 50 percent of the run and heifers 50 percent. Steers and heifers over 600 lbs. totaled 20 percent.

**Feeder steers:** Medium and large frame 1, 300-400 lb., \$126-\$135; 400-500 lb., \$118-\$130; 500-600 lb., \$111-\$118; 600-700 lb., \$99-\$109; 700-800 lb. yearlings, \$89-\$98.

Medium and large frame 2, 300-400 lb., \$111-\$124; 400-500 lb., \$109-\$117 lb.; 500-600 lb., \$104-\$110.

**Feeder heifers:** Medium and large frame 1, 300-400 lb., \$110-\$120; 400-500 lb., \$109-\$119; 500-600 lb. \$97-\$109; 600-700 lb., \$92-\$100; 700-800 lb. yearlings, \$82-\$92.

Medium and large frame 2, 300-400 lb., \$98-\$109; 400-500 lb., \$100-\$109.

Medium and large frame 3: 300-400 lb., \$91-\$95.

**Replacement cows:** medium and large 1-2, aged 900-1,200 lb. cows, 6 to 8 months bred, \$540-\$750 per head.