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Lampasas Dispatch Record

Campuses' construction highlights first half of year

By LISA CARNLEY
Staff Writer

A variety of stories highlighted the front pages of the Lampasas Dispatch Record over the past 12 months.

Excerpts from the top events in the first half of 2008 follow.

JANUARY

Lampasas youth Karleigh Vann was named grand champion of the Lampasas County Youth Livestock Show.

Lampasas County Constable Hiram Jones died at his Adamsville residence. He was 67. He served as constable for almost three decades.

Former longtime St. Mary's Episcopal Church Rector Jim Carlton Woodridge was sentenced to three years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division for sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child by sexual contact.

Dr. Brant Myers, Lampasas Independent School District superintendent, was offered a three-year contract extension through June 2011.

No salary increase was tied to the contract as Myers received an additional stipend earlier.

Adamsville Heritage Committee began preparations for its 100-year celebration of the township's founding in 1908.

Vision Downtown Lampasas! held its fund-raising kickoff event. The organization is continuing its efforts to promote and help build the downtown area.

FEBRUARY

After nearly three decades of planning, Lampasas leaders authorized a committee to look at selecting an architect and a building site large enough for a community center and parking.

The Lampasas Quarterback Club approached school board trustees about their hopes to fund dressing rooms with donations and in-kind services.

Lampasas County commissioners approved preliminary plans to enlarge the annex building, citing the need to localize all county of-

fices for patrons' convenience.

In its hopes to lure major motion picture filming to the community, members of the City Council approved guidelines for filming conducted within the city limits.

Longtime Saratoga Underground Water Conservation District Directors T.P. Wingo and David Hamilton announced they would not seek re-election to the board when their terms expire. Hamilton serves as chairman, and Wingo is the secretary-treasurer.

The Spring Ho Committee found itself fighting a civil lawsuit that stemmed from the death of a teenager in 2004 after an auto-pedestrian accident on Key Avenue.

Persistent dry weather has hampered the growth of crops and left ranchers with little grain or grasses for cattle.

The Lampasas Police Department saw an increase in crime, commensurate with the continued growth in the city's population. The LPD found itself at full staff, a rarity in recent times.

MARCH

David Whitis, a deputy in the Lampasas County Sheriff's Department, defeated Joe Lorette for the sheriff's position in March primary balloting. Whitis will take over in January for longtime Sheriff Gordon Morris who announced his retirement.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Lampasas High School campus on U.S. Highway 281 South adjacent to Grace Fellowship Church. The facility is projected to be ready for occupancy for the 2009-10 school term.

Lampasas Assistant Police Chief Sammy Bailey prepared to be the second local officer -- and first woman -- to attend the 10-week training session of the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

Former Lampasas Independent School District Superintendent Jack Lacy died at 79. He also owned a western-wear store and was a real estate broker.

Lampasas High School junior Stephanie Smith deadlifted 310 pounds on her way to a seventh-place finish at the state powerlifting meet in Killeen. Smith has won two regional titles and had her second state showing.

Kempner City Council agreed to



The stars of the annual Lometa Diamondback Jubilee are the snakes, and they give Lometa its time to shine during the festival held the last Saturday in March. Entertainment, a carnival and arts and crafts lure thousands to the small city each year.

APRIL

Joe Lorette, a former deputy with the Lampasas County Sheriff's Department who unsuccessfully challenged David Whitis for the sheriff's post, accepted the job as Kempner police chief.

Guyco Inc. of Lampasas was awarded two bids for \$1.14 million for renovations to Kline Whitis Elementary School, and just over \$1.6 million for work to the current high school campus to prepare it for a move-in of students in grades six through eight when the new high school facility opens on U.S. Highway 281 South.

A fire in the county burned several hundred acres, and the cause of the blaze was under investigation. Officials were concerned enough to place residents on notice that an evacuation could be held due to high winds and tinderbox conditions.

maximum of \$5 million in certificates of obligation to expand the Lampasas County Office Building.

Rocky and Beth White announced their intention to open a veterinary practice in Lampasas, following in the footsteps of her father, longtime local veterinarian Dr. Curtis Kidd.

Lampasas City Council member Debra Fuller resigned her post to accompany her husband after he received a job offer from the University of Texas economics department.

The Lometa City Council questioned issues of law enforcement and safety at a biker rally scheduled at the Lometa Regional Park that had been approved at an ear-

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Lampasas County Farm Bureau selected its local winners in the organization's annual contest. They include, from left, Little Miss Farm Bureau Laury Belle Bender, Miss Farm Bureau Sara Jackson, Talent Find winner Jamee Smith and Little Mister Cole Wheeler. Miss Jackson and Miss Smith headed to district competition to vie for scholarships.

Longtime community benefactor dies at 98

A memorial service for Amy Weichsel Campbell, 98, will be held Jan. 3, 2009, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lampasas. Arrangements are pending for a memorial service in Dallas on Jan. 10.

Mrs. Campbell died Dec. 28 in Dallas. She was born Sept. 7, 1910, in Dallas, to Christian Carl and Elma Lammers Weichsel.

Mrs. Campbell attended Mrs. Taylor's School and Holley Hall in Dallas. After graduating from the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., she attended Smith College.

In her teens, she was crowned queen of the State Fair of Texas by

the Idlewild Club.

Prior to her marriage, she was a board member of the Junior League of Dallas and served as chairman of the hospital committee in charge of occupational therapy at Scottish Rite Hospital.

In 1935, she married Henry V. Campbell Jr. of Lampasas. He preceded her in death in 1994.

Following her marriage, Mrs. Campbell moved to Lampasas, where she was an active volunteer and civic leader for 57 years.

She was the first woman to serve on the vestry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, was a co-founder and former president of the Lampasas Health and Welfare Foundation



Amy Campbell

and was responsible for bringing the United Way and the Community Concert Series to Lampasas.

Mrs. Campbell served on the Please see LONGTIME, page 12

Hearing set for land conflict

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

The city of Lampasas and local property owner Kim Garrett will take a disagreement over the appraised value of easements near the new high school construction site to a hearing Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. in Lampasas City Council Chambers.

District 27 Judge Joe Carroll has appointed a three-member commission to consider the issue.

The city is trying to acquire through eminent domain a 20-foot-wide permanent easement for a 795kV electric feeder line that will serve the new Lampasas High School and eventually connect to the Naruna Substation.

Plans call for the easement to run along an interior fence line in Mrs. Garrett's property near the new high school. The property totals 145 acres, and the permanent easement will occupy .6232 acres, or 27,148 square feet.

"We are not going for ownership" of the entire 145 acres, City Manager Michael Stoldt said.

Along with the permanent easement, city staff plan to acquire a 30-foot-wide temporary construction easement that will remain in effect until the completion of work on the electric line. Techline Inc., which will build the temporary line and tie it in to an existing three-phase electric line on U.S. 281, should be finished with its work by the end of

January, Stoldt said.

The easement will follow an interior fence line of a 62-acre field that is used for agricultural purposes, Stoldt said. Techline crews will install concrete structural poles -- one in the corner of Mrs. Garrett's property -- on both sides of Sulphur Creek. The poles do not have guy wires.

In addition, seven wooden poles, which stand 30 to 35 feet above ground, will cross the Garrett property, Stoldt said. "We looked at other routes," the city manager said. "We don't want to force our way where we're not wanted."

Stoldt said using a route around the Garrett property. Please see HEARING, page 5

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Dec. 28	60	30	
Dec. 29	68	26	
Dec. 30	76	35	

2008 rainfall to date: 24.40 inches. Same date last year: 39.94 inches.
Courtesy of KCYL Radio, a National Weather Service observer station.

Swearing-in

Lampasas County offices will be closed today, although City Hall in Lampasas is open. County offices will reopen on Monday.

A swearing-in ceremony for newly elected members of the Lampasas County Commissioners Court, and other county officials, is Monday at 9 a.m. at the county courthouse.

LEDC study

The Lampasas Economic Development Corp. will offer a retail trade study, "Are you maximizing your sales potential?" to help local businesses find new sales avenues.

The event is free for local merchants and is set Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Lampasas High School cafeteria.

For information, contact Cherry Hargrove at 734-0899.

Blood drive

An American Red Cross community blood drive is Monday from 12:30-6:30 p.m. at AMVETS Post 80.

Donors must be in good health, be at least 17 years old and weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. Bring photo identification to the site. Each donor will receive a gift.

For information, contact Wanda Meyers at 556-3338.

Storytimes

Lampasas Public Library is offering two special storytimes for preschool-age children during January.

On Wednesday, "Sip, Slurp and Soup" will be featured, followed by a Jan. 21 presentation of "Squirrel Friends."

Each event begins at 10 a.m., and includes a story, arts and crafts and a snack.

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