

# Murder trial, annexation issues dominate second half of year

**Continued from page 1**  
ing to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Ivey.

Through 10 months of the year, all government entities in Lamparas County and the surrounding area show sales tax growth over their 2007 statistics to date, and for most cities the growth falls between 3 percent and 15 percent of the revenues taken in for the comparable months last year.

## NOVEMBER

The Lometa City Council selected Cynthia Kirby to fill its mayoral vacancy after a called meeting. Lometa had been operating without a mayor or mayor pro tem since the resignation of Doug Brister last month.

Democrat Barack Obama claimed the presidency with 349 electoral votes to John McCain's 163, but McCain and other Republicans won by large margins in Lamparas County. The county recorded a 61 percent voter turnout, as 7,759 of the 12,636 registered voters cast a ballot.

A drop in gasoline prices was welcomed across Texas and in Lamparas, as costs fell below the \$2 mark for the first time in months. Gasoline previously had closed in on the \$4 mark for a gallon of regular unleaded.

Former Lometa mayor David Ivey was approached about filling an open seat on the City Council, while another resident, Kyle

Walton, was sworn into office along with the newly appointed mayor Cynthia Kirby.

The Lamparas City Council accepted an agreement with Rex and Linda Johnson that will transfer 16.23 acres of Cooper Springs land to the city for a park. The land is across Hackberry Street from Campbell Park, which includes Hanna Springs and about a half-mile walking trail.

Kempner Water Supply Corp. planned to begin construction on the Cliff and Eldine Poe Water Treatment Plant at Stillhouse Hollow Lake. The plant, tentatively scheduled for completion early in 2010, initially will treat 7.5 million gallons of surface water per day and can be expanded to a treatment capacity of 23 million gallons per day.

TxDOT released plans for a construction zone on U.S. Highway 281 South for a project that includes two traffic signals and an improved intersection at the new Lamparas High School campus.

Revised plans for the athletic complex at the new Lamparas High School facility south of town helped slice more than \$171,000 from proposed expenses while keeping the integrity of the project and seeing it to completion. A bid of just over \$327,000 was approved to get the complex up to standards LISD trustees felt were needed for the school to be a com-

plete facility.

## DECEMBER

Lamparas Police Department officials announced that its newest motorcycle officer, Dean Werlinger, will be joined as needed on the streets by Sgt. Tony Barrio, who had been using his personal cycle to patrol the city, until the recent purchase of two Harley Davidsons.

Lamparas Independent School District administrators reassigned head football coach Ryan Bailey, leaving the door open for the LISD to hire from within or explore outside options for his replacement. And in a later move, LISD Athletic Director Joey McQueen was selected to fill the role as both coach and athletic director.

The resignation of Lometa reserve police officer John Harris followed on the heels of two other vacancies in the city's police department. Harris' departure left Lometa without any law enforcement until he agreed to take the police chief's position.

The Lamparas City Council's effort to annex 409 acres of land west of the city limits officially died as the second reading of the ordinance, which passed 3-2, fell one vote short of the total required by the city's home rule charter for annexation matters.

Lometa Volunteer Fire Department was earmarked to receive a \$130,343 grant to support firefighters and their work as first re-



Hundreds of residents turned out for the local version of National Night Out. A number of law enforcement officials were on hand. There was entertainment and free food, courtesy of H-E-B.

sponders. The announcement came from the office of U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

Kempner Police Chief Joe Lorette resigned his post effective Dec. 31 to accept a position with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Lorette served as the police department chief for less than nine months.

Sonic Drive-In's Key Avenue facility was demolished to make way for a larger, more modern eatery.

Kempner City Council selected David Sheedy as its new chief of police. Sheedy brings numerous years of law enforcement experience to the community.

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Jack B. Box announced his

switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, effective when he files for re-election in December 2009.

A Lamparas businessman began circulating a petition for a local option election in a first step toward legalizing the sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption in Justice of the Peace Precinct 1.

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