

Deaths



**Ernest Melton
Mr. Melton**

Funeral services for Burnet County resident Ernest Melton, 84, are Feb. 28, 2009, at 2 p.m. at Sneed Funeral Chapel in Lampasas with the Rev. Charlie Brown officiating. Burial will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Lake Victor.

Mr. Melton died Feb. 25 at a local nursing home.

He was born March 31, 1924, in Eagle Springs in Coryell County, the son of E.E. and Lillie Green Melton.

Mr. Melton grew up in the Central Texas area. He served on a gunship in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After an honorable discharge, he moved to Burnet County where he met and married Maydell Davis, his wife of 50 years.

Mr. Melton was a rancher and enjoyed doing chores and raising milk cows.

He is survived by his wife of Burnet County; one daughter, Melissa Graves and husband, Billy, of Burnet County; one son, Donald Melton and Brenda of Burnet County; one sister, Dorothy Shoemaker of Glen Rose; a brother, Jack Melton of Cameron; two grandchildren, Chris Melton and Jerry Melton; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Buck Melton and Melvin Melton, and two sisters, Lillie Mae Brown and Jo Shoemaker.

Memorials may be made to McGregor Baptist Church, 1003 Pierce St., McGregor, TX 76657.

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Mr. Mello

Funeral services are pending for 1st Sgt. Mark D. Mello, 50, of Kempner.

He died Feb. 22, 2009, at his residence.

Arrangements by Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home of Copperas Cove.

Man gets prison sentence

In recent 27th District Court action, Blair Duane Wright, 41, of Buena Vista, Colo., was sentenced to two 19-year terms in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division to run concurrently.

Wright was charged with driving while intoxicated with a child passenger and bond jumping.

In other court action, Kempner resident Charles James Cadle, 22, had his probation revoked and was given two four-year sentences in the TDCJID to run concurrently.

Cadle was found guilty of assault on a public servant and aggravated assault on a public servant. He was credited with jail time served.

Charged with delivery of a dangerous drug, 19-year-old Michael James Odneal-Ybarra was given five years' probation and a \$500 fine.

Anthony Wayne Faught, 20, had his charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver reduced to a Class A misdemeanor. The Lampasas man received one year deferred adjudication probation and a \$500 fine.

State rainwater conference set

The Texas Rainwater Catchment Association will hold its first statewide conference March 20-21 in Kerrville at the Kerr County Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center.

March 20 activities include an optional tour of several rainwater catchment projects in the Boerne area (no transportation provided).

Sales tax growth slows, but gains still recorded

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\$58,726 for February, with \$103,782 earned through the first two months of the year. That total is up 5 percent from 2008.

Goldthwaite joins Kempner as the only other area city to start the year with back-to-back percentage increases.

After a 17 percent jump in January, the Mills County seat had a 5 percent gain in February. With cumulative payments that total \$52,807, Goldthwaite's sales taxes are running 9 percent ahead of last year.

Burnet, by contrast, has had percentage losses in both January and February. Its 13 percent drop this period comes on the heels of a 7 percent sales tax decline last month. For 2009, its two-month total of \$248,043 is 10 percent below the \$277,110 it collected in 2008.

In Marble Falls, the February dip amounted to 4 percent. The city's year-to-date sales taxes stand at \$1.1 million -- \$20,000 or 2 percent more than last year's \$1.08 million for the comparable period.

San Saba saw a 5 percent increase in its payment this month. The

\$36,890 rebate was not quite enough, however, to bring the city even with 2008 sales tax statistics. San Saba's cumulative total is \$186 short of the \$64,945 it held for the first two months of last year.

Hamilton's February check for \$48,348 was only \$26 less than it collected in 2008, but it shows a 1 percent gain on the year with a total received of \$82,071.

Evant, also in Hamilton County, posted a 31 percent jump in February with its \$2,829 sales tax rebate. After a small percentage decline in January, it has made up ground over

2008 and now reflects a 16 percent increase for 2009.

Sales tax figures for Coryell County cities are running quite close to last year's levels. In Gatesville, this month's payment of \$162,462 was short four-tenths of a percent from February 2008, and for the year Gatesville is within 0.12 percent of the \$281,068 it held last year.

Copperas Cove managed a 3 percent gain in February, after seeing a 6 percent decline in sales taxes last month. Its 2009 two-month total of \$617,321 remains about 1

percent less than it accumulated thus far in 2008.

"Growth in state sales tax collections remains modest," said State Comptroller Susan Combs, "While overall growth has continued for the first five months of fiscal 2009 [which started in September], collections from important sectors such as retail trade and construction have decreased."

Across the state, sales tax revenue was up 2.5 percent this month, compared to February 2008 payments.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE HARRINGTON

Where there's smoke...

Lampasas Fire Department personnel were busy with several re-kindles from a storage shed fire behind Santa Fe Square last weekend. The shed, containing tires and hay, smoldered for several days following the initial fire call. Lampasas Fire Marshal Reece Oestreich determined the fire was the result of arson, and two juveniles were arrested in connection with the blaze.

Vehicles collide on Key Avenue

A two-vehicle accident at North Key Avenue and Avenue B was reported Tuesday at 5:46 p.m.

Patrol Cpl. Jase Herring of the Lampasas Police Department said a Chrysler SUV was eastbound off Avenue B and crossing Key Avenue, while a Volkswagen 4-door was driving in the outside northbound lane.

The SUV crossed the intersection and failed to yield the right of way to the northbound car, he said. The right front of the Chrysler struck the Volkswagen's left front fender, Herring said.

Both vehicles sustained moderate damage and had to be towed from the scene, he said.

No injuries were reported at the time of the accident, according to Herring.

The Lampasas Fire Department assisted with traffic control at the scene. Capital Ambulance also responded.

Lampasas council reserves land for open park space

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willing to give up in exchange for getting one at a different intersection.

"Their whole premise is to get traffic through the city as quickly as possible," Ms. Hetherly said.

Manly also suggested a citywide recycling program for materials such as aluminum, cardboard, newspaper and glass. City staff have considered such a program, Ms. Hetherly said.

Also on Monday, the City Council:

- approved the first reading of an ordinance to vacate an unopened portion of the Seventh Street right

of way and sell the 0.13-acre tract to Bill Sanguinet for \$2,000.

- approved a Lampasas Independent School District request to hold the Lampasas High School promenade and dance in W.M. Brook Park on April 18 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The council also authorized an exemption to the city's noise ordinance to allow for the playing of music during the prom.

- OK'd investment reports for the last two quarters of 2008, and passed resolutions accepting an investment policy and a list of approved government investment pools.

- approved the \$4,119 purchase -- with a grant of \$4,000 from TxDOT -- of an in-car police camera. The council also OK'd a request for police escorts and street closures during special events in 2009.

- voted to appoint Rodney Seaver to fill the unexpired term of Bo Hollomon as Lampasas County Youth League Association representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

- heard a report by Police Chief Tim Angermann, who noted the Lampasas Police Department did not receive any complaints of racial profiling in 2008.

Commissioners vote to move fence

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model would cost about \$160,000.

Vincent has expressed interest in purchasing a large distributor, as he said a new unit could help the county minimize asphalt waste and reduce its payments for asphalt transport.

The court took no action on the matter.

In another item, commissioners met for about 30 minutes in executive session to discuss bids for an animal control facility to be built on 1.7 acres at the city of Lampasas' public works yard.

The facility will be built with city and county funds.

The county received 15 bids that ranged from \$530,573 to nearly \$1.09 million. The highest bid was the only one to exceed \$715,000.

The Commissioners Court took no action on the bids.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT BOSWELL, LAMPASAS PD

Under investigation

A house fire Tuesday night on McLean Street is still under investigation by the Lampasas Fire Department. The house, used for storage, was vacant at the time of the fire.

TAKS retests are scheduled

TAKS retests will be given for any current senior who has not met standards or has not taken the Exit-level tests or students who are out of school and have not met standards.

Testing will be offered as follows:

English/language arts, Tuesday; math, Wednesday; science, Thursday; and social studies, March 6.

Phone the Lampasas High School counseling office at 556-9964 for alternate test sites.

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Call Kenny Null for details.

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