

Number of county septic systems out of compliance

By MAT TAYLOR
Special Correspondent

Lampasas County on-site septic systems inspector F.A. Taylor said there are more than 500 aerobic septic systems in the county, and a recent review indicated that maintenance contracts on over 300 of these have expired and are in non-compliance with state and county rules.

"This is due to some homeowners not knowing that maintenance is required on these systems, or they have neglected to do so thinking they can save a little money and avoid being caught," Taylor said.

"If aerobic systems are not properly maintained, the components of the system may be damaged, requiring expensive repairs.

"However, an even greater concern is that serious health hazards are created," he said, "and that is a violation of Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 366."

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Lampasas County both require all aerobic septic systems be covered by a maintenance contract with a certified maintenance provider, or that the homeowner receive training in order to conduct maintenance on

his own system.

Taylor said homeowners with non-compliant systems are subject to misdemeanor charges and fines for failing to maintain a maintenance contract. Also, a maximum fine of \$200 per day may be assessed for each day the homeowner fails to make the proper corrections.

Lampasas County officials are urging all homeowners with aerobic septic systems to determine if they have a current contract and, if not, to purchase a contract from a licensed maintenance provider or receive training from a qualified instructor.

In the near future, notices will be mailed to homeowners who are not in compliance with the rules. If the homeowner does not respond within 30 days, the county will begin the process of filing civil charges.

Persons with questions concerning their septic systems may contact the Lampasas County judge's office at 556-8271.

Standard septic systems do not require a maintenance contract.

Taylor said aerobic systems are used in situations where standard septic systems are not a viable option. In many cases, they are used



F.A. Taylor, county septic system technician, inspects the filter field of an aerobic septic system. A recent review showed more than 300 aerobic systems in Lampasas County are in non-compliance.

to replace a failing system.

Aerobic systems are similar to standard septic systems that use a tank with an underground filter field. But unlike standard or anaerobic systems, the aerobic system requires oxygen.

Aerobic bacteria work much faster than anaerobic bacteria, which means they process septic tank waste more quickly. Aerobic treatment units use a mechanism to inject and circulate air inside the tank to accelerate the treatment process.

Aerobic systems require electricity to operate. For this reason, they cost more to install and run, and they need more routine maintenance than standard septic systems.

When properly maintained, aerobic systems can provide a high-quality wastewater treatment, Taylor said. A failing septic system, however, can be a major financial and environmental problem, he added.

Also, in most cases, persons cannot sell their homes with a failing septic system.

Officials: Stay calm about flu

Continued from page 1

officials throughout the county, Daniels said, and Mrs. Jones has not received notification of positive Influenza A cases in the immediate area.

District officials last week distributed Influenza A information letters for students to take home.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security decided on Wednesday to refer to the virus as "Influenza A (H1N1)." The U.S. Department of Agriculture also recommended the change, according to information provided by Tarleton State University, to reduce confusion about pork products.

"It is interesting how names of diseases get started," said Dr. Don Cawthon, dean of Tarleton State University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. "While the current flu outbreak may be the result of a mutated form of virus once associated with swine, this strain likely did not originate from swine since it has not been detected in any pigs in the United States or anywhere else.

"We need to understand that swine products are safe and that the spread of the disease is much more likely through human-to-human contact than from pig to human," Cawthon added.

Influenza A (H1N1) is not spread through food, and consumers may continue to eat pork.

Texas AgriLife Extension recommends a number of precautions to help hog farmers keep their workers and animals safe.

- Workers should shower before entering swine facilities. Clothes worn on the farm should not be worn off the farm.

- Workers with flu symptoms should stay home and see a doctor immediately.

- Only workers and essential service people should enter a farm, and international visitors should not be permitted to visit the agricultural site.

- Animal facilities should be well ventilated so inside air is recirculated as little as possible.

- Vaccinate swine against the influenza virus.

- Contact a veterinarian if hogs show signs of flu or respiratory illness, especially if the onset and symptoms seem unusual. Then notify the Texas Animal Health Commission at (800) 550-8242. The commission will help investigate human cases of flu that may be linked to swine in Texas.

Lampasas Police Department: Be alert for scams

Editor's note: The following is the second of a two-part story on how people are falling prey to scammers in a variety of ways.

Several local residents have become victims of scams after they were sent counterfeit checks to cash, said Lampasas Assistant Police Chief Sammy Bailey. "And they have lost thousands of dollars."

Ms. Bailey offered this advice to consumers when buying or selling online or through the mail:

- Deal locally with people you

know and trust. "Follow this simple rule, and 99 percent of the time you will avoid scams."

- Don't buy something unseen.
- Never wire funds to a distant buyer via Western Union or any other carrier.

- Be wary if the other party wants to use an escrow service such as BidPay, Squaretrade or even Pay Pal.

- Never give out personal or financial information.

- Beware of the scams via e-mail from Nigeria and other countries. "In those, they often

send you more than your selling price if you accept their check or money order."

- Avoid over-complicated payment and shipping processes that try to trick sellers into shipping the item for sale first and then paying later.

"If the buyer or seller won't agree to meet with you in person, there's probably a good chance this is a scam," said the assistant chief.

Ms. Bailey noted that the online buying and selling Web site Craigslist is not involved in any

transactions. "It does not handle payments, nor guarantee transactions. It does not provide escrow services or offer 'buyer protection' or 'seller certification.'"

The best defense from a fraudulent scheme is education, said Ms. Bailey. "Even if you have been scammed already, it's not too late to arm yourself against its happening again. When people know how to spot a scam, they can stop short before they lose their money."

Anyone who suspects fraud or scam attempts is encouraged to contact the Federal Trade Commission's toll-free hotline at (877) 382-4357 or fill out an online complaint form at www.ftc.gov.

To contact the Internet Fraud Complaint Center, visit the Web site www.ic3.gov.

"My biggest piece of advice is to trust your instincts," the law official said. "If it sounds too good to be true, it is."

Woman injured in two-vehicle accident

A Lampasas woman and her daughter were transported to Rollins Brook Community Hospital Monday morning after a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Third and Howe streets.

Charlotte Higgins, driving a 2006 Chevrolet Aveo, was heading east on Third Street about 7:30 a.m. When Ms. Higgins attempted to cross Howe Street, she was looking into the rising sun and could not see a southbound Toyota Highlander driven by Brittany Graham of Lampasas, according to a report by Lampasas Police Department patrol officer Matt Boswell.

When Ms. Higgins pulled out, the Highlander collided with the front driver's side of the Chevrolet. The Aveo spun into a yard at the intersection of Third and Howe.

Ms. Higgins received a cut on the back of her head, but her daughter, Hanna, appeared unhurt, Boswell said. The child was restrained in a child safety seat in the back seat, passenger side.

Capital Ambulance transported Ms. Higgins and her daughter to Rollins Brook Community Hospital. Both Ms. Higgins and Ms.

Graham were wearing seat belts, Boswell said.

The Lampasas Fire Department also responded to the crash scene.

Cattle Auction

The report from the April 29 sale at Lampasas Cattle Auction is as follows.

Cattle and calves: Estimated receipts 179, compared to last week at 406 and last year at 543.

Feeder steers: medium and large 1: 400-500 lb., \$108-\$115; 500-600 lb., \$103-\$110.

Medium and large 2: 400-500 lb., \$101-\$107; 500-600 lb., \$95-\$101.

Medium and large 3: 400-500 lb., \$90-\$98.

Feeder heifers: medium and large 1: 400-500 lb., \$103-\$110; 500-600 lb., \$102-\$108; 600-700 lb., \$94.50-\$95.

Medium and large 1-2: 500-600 lb., \$90-\$94; 600-700 lb., \$86-\$89.

Medium and large 3: 400-500 lb., \$80-\$90.

Slaughter cows: breakers, 75-80 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb. average dressing, \$55; boners, 80-85 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb., average dressing, \$52-\$58.25; lean, 85-90 percent lean, 1,000-1,200 lb., average dressing, \$45-\$50; lean, 85-90 percent lean, 800-1,000 lb., average dressing, \$49-\$51.50, high dressing, \$60; lean, 85-90 percent lean, under 800 lb., average dressing, \$38-\$44.

Thank You

We wish to express our sincere thanks to our friends, family and neighbors for their many acts of kindness during our time of sorrow. The words of sympathy, prayers, food and beautiful floral offerings were deeply appreciated, and a special thank you to Sneed Funeral Chapel and City of Lampasas Police, Sheriff, Fire and Ambulance departments.



Rosemarie S. Foote & Family

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LISD  

February Employees of the Month



Jeff Kepler



Aaron Nuckles

Lampasas ISD would like to recognize our employees of the month, Jeff Kepler, HVAC Technician for Lampasas ISD, and Aaron Nuckles, Lampasas Middle School teacher and coach. Jeff has a total of three (3) education service years and Aaron has three (3). These two individuals have done an excellent job for the students and staff of Lampasas ISD. We truly appreciate the service they provide for our district.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Simba's uncle
- Small residue amount
- Reciprocal ohm
- NBA player Bryant
- Gold measure
- Nourishment
- Journalist Jacob 1849-1914
- One Wise Man's gift
- Freedom from difficulty
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- More colorless
- A large vessel or vase
- C C C
- Subdivision of an act of a play
- Characterized by unity
- Adult male sheep
- Tsetung or Zedong
- Code for Information Interchange
- Santa ____, 92701
- Helps little firms
- Cher's singing partner
- State in S.W. India
- Old world, new
- Heathen
- Auricle
- Cathode-ray tube
- Myriagram
- Pink wines
- Be apathetic or dazed
- Banned insecticide
- Circular building with a dome
- Swiss river
- Currently fashionable
- Keep up
- Support or hold up
- Tropical Asian starlings
- Labrador tea genus
- Wolf (Spanish)
- Grantor's legal agent (abbr.)
- A coral ridge
- 73701 OK

CLUES DOWN

- Swedish krona
- Coconut husk fiber
- One baby apron
- Save from danger
- Dekametre
- A sun beam
- Make a mistake
- Horticulture
- Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
- Socks, stockings and tights
- River that flows into the Baltic
- A cardinal number
- 2nd month (abbr.)
- Atomic #33
- A nucleic acid
- Crime fighter Eliot
- Metal currency
- Sword with a curved blade
- Act together, as of organisms
- Finger millet
- Dwarf buffalos
- Picasso's mistress
- Millisecond
- Printer material
- Equals 3 feet
- The land of sleep
- Most frequent value
- It houses horses
- Manganese
- Canadian law enforcers
- A Mississippi tributary
- ____ Turner, rock singer
- Fiddler crabs
- Longest division of geological time
- Isidor ____, Am. Nobel physicist
- A billiard stick
- Electromotive force
- A long, thin implement

Answers to last week's puzzle.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

BOHR KABER TADS
ALEE AROSE ELAN
REAP HALEE RARA
BATH ROBE PACING
HUNE LOGE
SPRANG JANE SEA
KEASE GARDENING
ERIE PARIS ANSI
WINDOWBOX RAIL
GLY LAOS CERISE
GLYN PAPA
SCARAB BARTONE
ALCA ABELI IBOX
TAMBA CORES VOCE
EYES HAMAS ELKS

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