



FRIDAY

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LISD trustees to review superintendent applications

By LISA CARNLEY
Staff Writer

The search for a school superintendent continues following last month's departure of Superintendent Dr. Brant Myers, who took the top post at the Jim Ned Consolidated Independent School District after five years with Lamparasas.

Horn, Smith, Wood and Preston -- the firm hired to search for a new superintendent for LISD -- received 34 applications by Monday's deadline, and more could be forthcoming if they were postmarked by Monday's date and arrive by this morning.

That is when trustees plan to meet in closed session to consider the applications.

Prior to that, at 9 a.m. today, trustee positions for the LISD will be finalized after a meeting of the Early Voting Ballot Board to ensure all acceptable overseas mail-in ballots have been counted and added to the final totals.

After last week's election, just a handful of votes separated incumbent Andrew Irvin and his challenger, Mark Bishop. Before the race is declared final, official votes must be tallied.

Whichever school board candidate -- Irvin or Bishop -- garnered more votes in the election will be on hand to review the superintendent applications.

Also reviewing applications with the board will be Dan Claussen, the candidate who defeated incumbent Max Keele.

After the review, which is expected to take several hours, trustees will narrow their selections and begin making arrangements for interviews with finalists.

Potential superintendents likely will be interviewed early next week.

Trustees -- who plan to meet at 6 p.m. Monday to canvass election results, reorganize the board and swear in trustees -- may schedule interviews both prior to and following the board meeting.

From that pool, the field will be narrowed to the top candidates -- from one to three -- who then will be scheduled for a second interview, said LISD Board President James Briggs. Those interviews could come as soon as late next week or early the following week.

"We hope to be able to name a finalist as early as

June 1," said Interim Superintendent Rex Daniels.

After naming a finalist, a mandatory 21-day waiting period will ensue.

If all goes as planned, a new superintendent could be in place by the end of June or early July, Daniels said.

When Myers left the LISD, his annual salary was \$118,000, but the new superintendent's pay will be negotiated, said Daniels.

Briggs noted the LISD pays the lowest superintendent salary of any school in the district. "But I think there are many things that will make Lamparasas an attractive place for a superintendent to locate," he added, "including the LISD's new schools."

City Council rejects sports complex bids

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

The Lamparasas City Council on Monday voted 7-0 to reject all six bids for the Lamparasas Regional Sports Complex on Farm-to-Market Road 580 West.

After CWA Construction of Waco corrected its proposal to include concrete work, the company's bid increased by \$510,000. The change made Westar Construction of Georgetown the low bidder. Westar's bid, however, exceeded Lamparasas' \$1.9 million budget by \$647,000.

City Manager Michael Stoldt said city staff plan to rebid the project the first week of June. Consultation with the project architect is ongoing to identify potential budget cuts, he added.

The city will change the base bid to include the minimum facilities -- four athletic fields, a playground, a multi-purpose court, a concession stand and parking -- required to receive grants from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Lower Colorado River Authority, Stoldt said. The covered pavilion

that city staff originally planned to construct is not required, he said.

Lighting for the baseball and soccer fields will be bid as alternate items, and bid specifications will include less expensive lights than originally planned, the city manager said.

"I hope we can still light all the fields," Stoldt said, noting that staff would try to illuminate at least half of the playing areas.

A fishing deck for the park's "wetland" area will stop at the water's edge, rather than extending out into the water as originally planned, he added.

City staff also plan to install a septic system instead of sewer lines. The savings, Stoldt said, will allow a general fund transfer of \$200,000.

In another item, the City Council voted unanimously to award an engineering contract for \$30,685 to Eckermann Engineering of Lamparasas for services related to the 2009 Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Program. The contract is about \$5,000 lower than what the city paid for engineering on last year's water and wastewater

capital improvements.

In a related item, the council approved a surveying proposal of \$7,750 from Jerry Goodson Surveying of Lamparasas for services related to the water and wastewater improvements. The city spent about \$7,000 with Jerry Goodson Surveying for the 2008 capital improvement program.

In other business, the City Council OK'd a Lamparasas Police Department request to apply through the Criminal Justice Division for a grant of \$29,890, made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The grant will fund the purchase of a four-door pickup for Major Crimes Investigator Charlie Boswell and a Tough Book in-car patrol vehicle computer system, Police Chief Tim Angermann said. Boswell's current police vehicle, which has about 100,000 miles on it, will be used at the animal-control facility the city is building in cooperation with Lamparasas County, Angermann said.

In another item, the City Council voted to lease a John Deere 2500B
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COURTESY PHOTO

Mural progress

Libby Bluntzer, left, and T.J. Mabrey work on the second mural being painted on the side of the Lamparasas Hardware building. While painting on the Texas Trading Company portion of the mural is nearing completion, the scaffolding will be moved to allow painters to begin the second phase.

Elementary teacher retiring after 40 years

By LISA CARNLEY
Staff Writer

In today's mobile society where people change jobs as quickly as they change hairstyles, Ginger Jones is an over-achiever.

And the students she has taught over the last four decades have been the beneficiaries.

A Kline Whitis Elementary second-grade teacher, Mrs. Jones is set to retire at the end of this school year after 40 years of teaching -- with 31 of those in Lamparasas.

The Lake Victor native hasn't strayed too far from home, and she finds herself looking forward to all the things her friends have told her she can do now, even though she still has mixed emotions about leaving.

Mrs. Jones' family moved to Amarillo when she was in high school, and she attended Amarillo College before heading to Sul Ross in Alpine where she earned a social studies degree with a secondary teaching certification.

"When I sent letters of application to high schools while looking to teach history, I was told, 'We save our history jobs for coaches.'"

So when she was offered a third-grade teaching position in Needville, she accepted, and returned to school to earn an elementary teacher's certificate.

After six years in Needville, Mrs. Jones moved to Cherokee where she began an interesting three-year stint at the Class A (six-man football) district. "I think it was even smaller than Lometa," she said of Cherokee.

Mrs. Jones taught a variety of subjects. "I would teach senior English, then a typing class, followed by seventh-grade history and then fourth-grade reading. I really loved being able to teach so many different subjects. It made the days very interesting."

Mrs. Jones mentioned that at Cherokee, she taught Rudy Garza, who works in the Lamparasas ISD maintenance department.

When the retiring teacher came to Lamparasas seeking a job, there weren't any openings. She worked as a substitute teacher before taking a half-year post as a kindergarten teacher.



PHOTO BY LISA CARNLEY

Ginger Jones shows some of the 1950s books students learned to read with, compared to today's brightly colored reader. Mrs. Jones, whose passion is reading, has a large collection of readers and primers she will take with her when she retires.

She then taught first- and second-grade reading classes at the former Lamparasas Primary School campus.

When her son went into third grade, Mrs. Jones began her tenure as a second-grade teacher -- 25 years ago.

Mrs. Jones credits a third-grade teacher in Burmet for instilling in her the desire to teach. "I just loved her, and we did such fun projects. She made me want to be a teacher just like her."

When asked how teaching has changed over the years, Mrs. Jones noted that technology has really advanced. Though initially fearful of
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County commissioners designate speed limit

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

The Lamparasas County Commissioners Court voted 5-0 Monday to set a 30 mile-per-hour speed limit on County Road 4620.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack B. Cox said the road, which runs from Farm-to-Market Road 2808 to the Lamparasas River, has many winding sections. The commissioner said county crews will place warning signs on the road.

In other business, the Commissioners Court voted unanimously to approve a Justice Assistance Grant resolution. The resolution allows the county to accept a state grant of \$36,000 for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff David Whitis said he will use the grant for improvements to the video systems in patrol cars.

Also Monday, commissioners awarded a bid to Texas Fleet Fuel Ltd. for at-the-station gasoline and diesel. Texas Fleet Fuel, Lamparasas County's supplier last year, submitted the only bid. The company will receive an eight-cent-per-gallon profit.

In another item, the Commissioners Court voted unanimously to authorize County Clerk Connie Hartmann to use records

management funds for the purchase of computers. Mrs. Hartmann plans to purchase four or five computers with Internet access, as she files some reports online. She has been using computers in the county auditor's office when Internet access is necessary.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Lowell Ivey's motion limited the expenditure to \$16,000, but an amended motion did not include a spending limit. Cox voted to authorize the expenditure but said he wanted a spending cap.

Cox said he does not mind the county clerk buying computers for her office but added that the Commissioners Court needed to know how much the computers would cost, as the department heads typically include cost projections in their requests for expenditures.

Mrs. Hartmann did not provide an exact cost, as she still is considering the features she needs on the computers.

"Everybody who's come in here and asked for computers has brought a figure," Cox said.

Also on Monday, the Commissioners Court took no action on the
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WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
May 11	82	71	
May 12	91	68	
May 13	93	71	

2009 rainfall to date: 9.36 inches. Same date last year: 12.51 inches.

Data collected from the archives of weather.com.

Meeting

Lamparasas County Youth Livestock Association will hold its annual meeting on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the county showbarn.

A hamburger supper will be served. Participants are asked to bring chips and dips or desserts to accompany the meat.

All Lamparasas County stock show families are invited to attend.

Spring Ho

Entries are being accepted for the 2009 Little Miss Spring Ho and Miss Spring Ho Beauty Pageant set July 6.

Applications and rules are available at Lamparasas and Lometa schools or online at www.SpringHo.com. Entry deadline is June 1. For more information, phone Marci Tomme at 556-5301 or 564-0171.

Riata queen

The annual Riata Roundup Rodeo Queen Contest, held in conjunction with rodeo events on June 19-20, is open to students in grades seven through 12.

Applications are at Lamparasas and Lometa campuses, Lamparasas County Extension office and the chamber of commerce. Deadline is May 22.

Fish fry

Adamsville Community Center will host a fish fry with all the trimmings tonight beginning at 6 p.m. Funds raised will benefit the community center.

A raffle for a Ruger Mark II 243 rifle will be held. Donations for a bake sale will be appreciated.

For information, phone 768-3403.



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