



PHOTO BY DAVID LOWE

Billy Bachmayer, president of Bell County Iron & Recycling Co. Inc., and Mayor Judy Hetherly, right, sign a lease agreement allowing the company to open a full-service recycling center on 2.61 acres off Farm to Market Road 580 East. Bachmayer and his wife, company vice president Jessica Bachmayer, center, plan to open the Lampasas site within about 45 days.

Recycling company to open facility

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computer parts, as well as refrigerators and air-conditioning units with the freon removed.

Glass may be accepted -- although likely without payment -- within the next few months, Bell County Iron & Recycling president Billy Bachmayer said.

Staff from the Lampasas center can place recycling containers at Lampasas schools for pickup, Bachmayer added.

The Lampasas facility is scheduled to open within about 45 days, Bachmayer said. Bell County Iron & Recycling plans to have two employees running the Lampasas center. One has begun training.

"I think this is going to go well enough that one of these days we can have three or four [employees]," Bachmayer said.

The company president said with industries under pressure to recycle, a facility that accepts a variety of products for reuse could promote economic growth by eventually attracting new businesses to

Lampasas. Although the LEDC owns the land on which the recycling center will sit, City Manager Michael Stoldt said Lampasas will collect property tax revenue once the site converts to private sector use.

"We could've made it into a public works barn," Stoldt said of a metal building on the property, "but that would have kept it off the property tax rolls."

Stoldt and Mayor Judy Hetherly said they regularly face questions about the availability of recycling venues in Lampasas.

"I don't think there's a week that goes by that I don't get asked about recycling," Ms. Hetherly said. "It's absolutely on everybody's mind."

The Lampasas City Council has no plans at this time to establish a mandatory recycling program, Stoldt said.

"But we strongly encourage everybody to participate," Ms. Hetherly added.

A specific-use permit approved by the City Council prohibits op-

erations at the Lampasas recycling business between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., and it requires a 10-foot-high fence to screen the storage area from view.

"We have put in safeguards for the people who live in that area," Stoldt said. Construction of the fence could begin by mid-month, Bachmayer said.

He and his wife, Bell County Iron & Recycling vice president Jessica Bachmayer, have not named the Lampasas recycling center. The couple are soliciting name suggestions from Lampasas schoolchildren. They plan to give a \$500 savings bond to the student who submits the winning moniker.

LEDC Coordinator Cherry Hargrove, who led the effort to recruit Bell County Iron & Recycling and has been in contact with company officials for more than a year, said Lampasas will benefit from the opening of the new facility.

"We just think it's a great industry to bring to the city," Mrs. Hargrove said.

Comptroller to conduct new appraisal district reviews

The Texas Legislature, in House Bill 8, gave Comptroller Susan Combs the responsibility of reviewing the performance of each county appraisal district at least once every other year. In the off years, the comptroller's office will conduct a property value study to determine the taxable value in each school district.

The new law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2010. "We look forward to working with appraisal districts in our reviews and value studies to ensure fair and accurate appraisals," Mrs. Combs said. "Texas taxpayers expect and deserve efficient service and uniform appraisals so property taxes are shared equally among taxpayers."

The reviews will cover each appraisal district's governance, tax-

payer assistance, operating and appraisal standards, procedures and methods.

If an appraisal district fails to comply with the comptroller's recommendations within one year, the Board of Tax Professional Examiners or a successor agency must take action necessary to ensure compliance.

HB 8 also changed the comptroller's school district Property Value Study from an annual study to a study that must be conducted once every two years, except when the study finds invalid values for a school district, at which time a study will be conducted annually until the values are valid.

The requirement for a biennial -- rather than an annual -- study will

free up comptroller resources to do a more intensive Property Value Study in approximately half the school districts each year.

The bill created a nine-member Comptroller's Property Value Study Advisory Committee to consult with the comptroller prior to the adoption of study rules.

The speaker of the Texas House of Representatives will appoint one member from the House; the lieutenant governor will appoint one member from the Senate; and the comptroller will appoint two members representing appraisal districts, two members representing school districts and three members who are Texas taxpayers or have expertise in school district taxation or ratio studies.

Applications due to Texas Tech

Application deadline is Aug. 1 for students interested in completing an undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University Highland Lakes for the fall semester.

Junior and senior level courses are available to complete bachelor of general studies or bachelor of science in multidisciplinary studies degree (elementary teacher education) at off-campus sites in the Hill Country.

Students must have at least 45 hours of undergraduate core curriculum courses completed (freshmen and sophomore level classes) to be eligible to transfer for either degree program. In the teacher education program, students prepare to become certified elementary or English as a Second Language teachers. New students for this program are admitted each fall and complete the program in a cohort. Teaching assistants in area public schools may be eligible for a state tuition and fee waiver to help them become certified teachers.

Potential students must apply at www.applytexas.org.

Let everyone know what you have to offer with an ad in the Lampasas Dispatch Record. Phone Marie at 556-6262 today for information.