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Lampasas Dispatch Record

Filing begins Monday

Filing for City Council seats in Lampasas, Lometa and Kempner, and school board positions in Lampasas and Lometa begins Monday and continues through March 8.

Early voting will run April 26 through May 4, with elections set May 8.

Following is a list of seats open for filing.

Lampasas City Council: Up for election are the seats of Evan Stubbs, Place 3; Wanda Bierschwale, Place 4; and Les Gerhardt, Place 5.

Those who wish to file may do so at City Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Assistant City Manager Stacy Brack, or assistant city secretaries Christina Marez and Ursula Paddie.

Lometa City Council: Seats to be on the ballot in May include those of Mayor Cynthia Kirby, and at-large seats of Betty Poe and Chuck Lymber. A special election will be held for the one-year terms of Kyle Walton and Mario Maldonado.

Filing is at the Lometa Municipal Building weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with City Secretary Michelle Schueneman.

Kempner City Council: Positions open for balloting are those of Mayor Gene Isenhour; Paul Cook, Place 1; and Melba Vandever, Place 5.

Filing is at Kempner City Hall, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with City Secretary Frances Spinney or Assistant City Secretary

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PHOTO BY RICHARD AKRIDGE

Triple overtime

Lampasas High School senior Lauren Barlow attempts to drive past a Lake Travis defender as she heads to the basket. The Lady Badgers won the game Tuesday night after a triple-overtime thriller, 54-50, at home. See today's Sports for a complete story and additional photos.

LISD teacher receives word: No good cause to terminate

Educator will not return to classroom, though she is subject to assignment, superintendent notes

By LISA CARNLEY
Staff Writer

A Taylor Creek Elementary School third-grade teacher who was proposed for termination of her probationary contract received word that the Board of Trustees of the Lampasas Independent School District agreed with the findings of an independent examiner that there was not good cause to terminate Wendy Gholson's contract.

Following a closed session at Monday night's meeting of Lampasas ISD trustees, the board unanimously accepted the hearing examiner's recommendation.

Court documents show the case stems back to an incident last fall at the Kempner campus after which Mrs. Gholson was placed on administrative leave with pay. The reason given for her proposed termination, Superintendent Randy Hoyer said, was "Mrs. Gholson failed to meet the district's standards of professional conduct and that her actions diminished the teacher's effectiveness in the district."

The termination proposal was based on an event Sept. 28 when a physically handicapped student in Mrs. Gholson's classroom needed assistance to stand up after recess. The student was known to have difficulty standing without assistance, court documents show.

The document states that Mrs. Gholson forced the student to crawl on his hands and knees over dirt, stones and acorns to a tree that was

more than 100 feet away while his classmates watched, "despite the fact that all you would have had to have done to avoid this was either offer your hand to the student or place the chair you had been sitting on next to him so he could help himself up."

Documents state Mrs. Gholson told the student the reason she did not lift him up was she wanted him to learn how to help himself, and that she didn't want to hurt herself.

Mrs. Gholson's case also states the student did not complain or show discomfort during or after the time he moved to the trees, and the other students did not berate him or make fun of him.

Mrs. Gholson believed her action was helping the student learn self-sufficiency, the document states, and that she did not intend to harm the third-grader in any way.

The student testified at the hearing that Mrs. Gholson is a good teacher, was nice to him, cares for him and did not let other students make fun of him.

The teacher's testimony noted she had not been given an official directive on how to accommodate the student on the playground.

Tony Connors of Brim, Arnett, Robinett, Connors and McCormick of Austin represented Mrs. Gholson. The attorney said the decision made by the LISD board is the only decision they could make because under the Texas Education Code, "the board did not have the legal authority to change the hearing officer's findings."

"The hearing officer acts as the judge, and he makes fact-finding and recommendations," Connors said.

While employed by the LISD, Mrs. Gholson was never formally reprimanded or disciplined, and never failed to follow directives and expectations given by her principal, the documents state.

The hearing examiner noted that Mrs. Gholson mishandled the incident on the playground, as it would have been better to have provided a chair for the student to pull himself up.

The examiner said failing to provide a chair for the student was a mistake, but he felt the potential risk of harm to the student was "small."

Considering the circumstances -- including Mrs. Gholson's record of following directives of his superior, demonstrated care of the student and concern for his well-being, the lack of clear directives on how to accommodate the student's not being able to rise to his feet from sitting on the floor and the remote likelihood Mrs. Gholson would make the same mistake again -- the hearing examiner said the evidence did not show good cause to terminate the teacher's probationary contract with the LISD.

Connors agreed with the finding. "This should have been resolved by them [administrators] telling Mrs. Gholson how to do it correctly," said her attorney. "It

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Briggs-Gamel funeral home opens with new ownership

By LISA CARNLEY
Staff Writer

It's all about choices, and Briggs-Gamel Lampasas has reopened its doors to offer that to the local community, said Richard D. Gardner, managing director of the funeral home and cremation service.

The landscape is familiar to most residents, as the facility had operated since 1921 on Key Avenue until it closed its doors a few years ago.

Briggs-Gamel Lampasas was purchased recently by Joe F. Solansky, who has more than 35 years in the memorial industry. He is involved with ownership of several cemeteries and monument outlets in the state.

Gardner, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, graduated from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service in Houston.

Gardner said he fell in love with the Lampasas area on numerous trips through the community since childhood, as his parents grew up in Hamilton. He also said Hancock Park Municipal Golf Course has been a major draw for him for the past 10 years.

Gardner, with more than 20 years of funeral service experience, now calls Lampasas home.

He has been active in funeral service industry leadership and was a board member of the South Central Texas Funeral Directors Association as well as on numerous legislative committees.

Gardner also is a member of the Texas Funeral Director Disaster Response Team that most recently traveled to the Gulf coast in response to Hurricane Ike.

Also on board is Casey Corbin, a fourth-generation Lampasas with two decades of funeral experience. Corbin graduated from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. He worked at Lampasas Monuments for several years before purchasing the business in 2003.

Corbin also is a member of the Spring Ho Commit-

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tee.

"We are here to supplement each other," he said of the connection between his monument company and the newly reopened funeral home. "Our goal is to take care of folks at home and provide them with the services they need."

Since its opening early in January, Briggs-Gamel Lampasas has been basically ready to go, said Gardner. With a new audio and video system, the full-service facility can seat 150 to 160 persons. It has a full casket selection in its 10,000-square-foot facility.

Three employees staff the funeral home, including Lampasas Joy Olson, the administrator, and a part-time receptionist.

Gardner said for its population, a community the size of Lampasas should have more than one funeral home. "Briggs-Gamel is extremely proud to be a part of the community again," he said. "And as a funeral director, I am proud to be part of a facility that has so much history."

Gardner said the funeral home also plans to play a part in supporting the community. Briggs-Gamel Lampasas is a new chamber member and has donated to a local flag program.

"We plan to be good stewards of our community. That's an integral part of any business."

Added Corbin: "I have a personal stake in this business. I think people deserve a choice, and we want the people of Lampasas to know we are here to take care of them just like Porter Briggs and Glen Gamel did [original owners of the funeral home that bears their names]."

The individually owned funeral home offers pre-need and pre-arrangement services. They can be reached at 556-4400.



Marcus Foster

Foster seeks Precinct 4 county post

By DAVID LOWE
Staff Writer

Business owner and pastor Marcus L. Foster is running for the Precinct 4 county commissioner seat.

Foster, a 1981 Lometa High School graduate, owns a farm and ranch construction company and fills a part-time role as pastor of Naruna Baptist Church.

He is a 2009 graduate of Baptist

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Longtime vet dies

Curtis Lynn Kidd, D.V.M., of Lampasas died Feb. 2, 2010, at Regal Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. He was 59.

Funeral services are Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. at New Covenant Church with Pastor Darrell Feemster to officiate. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Visitation is Feb. 5 from 6-8 p.m. at Sneed Funeral Chapel.

Dr. Kidd was born Feb. 16, 1950, in Brady, the son of George and Elizabeth Priest Kidd.

After graduating from Brady High School, Dr. Kidd attended Texas A&M University, where he received a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine.

He settled at Lampasas Veterinary Clinic where he and his wife, Lynda, served the community for 33 years. He also helped with the city and county impound services.

Besides veterinary medicine, Dr. Kidd had success at breeding and racing thoroughbreds and quarter horses. He served nine years on the Texas Thoroughbred Association Board of Directors.

He also enjoyed watching his three daughters participate in basketball at Lampasas High School.

After his retirement, Dr. Kidd's daughter and son-in-law, Drs. Rocky and Beth White, took over Lampasas Veterinary Clinic.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Lynda Ann; three daughters, Dr. Beth Ann White and husband



Dr. Curtis Kidd

Dr. Rocky White of Lampasas, Kate Melynda Farmer and husband Terry of Plano, and Holly Jill Kidd of Lampasas; two brothers, Tommy Kidd and wife Pat of Granbury, and Dr. George Kidd and wife Margaret of San Saba; one sister, Jana Kidd of Lampasas; two granddaughters, Leah Farmer and Abra White; and two grandsons, Asa White and Myles Farmer.

Memorials may be made to New Covenant Children's Building Fund, P.O. Box 1270, Lampasas, TX 76550.

Arrangements by Sneed Funeral Chapel of Lampasas.

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Feb. 1	45	30	
Feb. 2	52	43	.19
Feb. 3	46	42	.76

2010 rainfall to date: 6.18 inches. Same date last year: .85 inches.

Data collected from the archives of weather.com.

Grand opening

The Boys & Girls Club of Lampasas will celebrate its new location with a grand-opening celebration Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the former Lampasas Middle School band hall.

The public is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon, followed by games and activities. Free hot dogs and drinks will be offered.

Lometa ISD

A second county town hall meeting is scheduled Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Lometa Independent School District cafeteria to discuss the feasibility of a bond election.

Superintendent David Rice said the bond package could be from \$4 million to \$4.8 million for a new gym and renovations of dressing rooms into classrooms.

Forum

The Lampasas County Conservative Club will host a forum for county-level candidates on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the courthouse. The public is invited. Unopposed candidates will give brief speeches, and candidates in contested races will answer questions submitted by the audience. Written questions will be accepted at 6:30 p.m.

Chili dinner

St. Mary's Catholic Church will hold an ACTS chili dinner fundraiser on Saturday from 5-8 p.m., with proceeds to go to the ACTS men's, women's and teen retreats for community members.

The menu includes chili, cornbread, salad and tea or water. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 9. Tickets may be purchased at the door.



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