



**Reopened facility**

Casey Corbin, at left, owner of Lampasas Monuments, and Richard Gardner, manager of Briggs-Gamel, join funeral home administrator Joy Olson and local resident Hansford Smith at the newly reopened Key Avenue funeral home facility.

**LISD teacher receives word: No good cause to terminate**

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should have never gotten this far. The superintendent has never been involved in any kind of termination case, and this should have never come to that."

Conners noted the LISD spent in excess of \$80,000 in fees for an attorney, hearing examiner, court reporter, a teacher to replace Mrs. Gholson and payment through the end of her contract year.

"You're talking close to \$80,000 to \$100,000. This could have been solved if they had taken our offer of a letter of reprimand and two months' pay of \$6,000. And we would have dropped the request for a hearing, her resignation would have been in effect on March 1, and we would have been gone," he said.

"But the board rejected it," Conners continued. "The LISD paid a lot of taxpayer dollars to go after someone with no prior problems. Witnesses testified she was a good teacher."

The superintendent said Mrs. Gholson, who remains on administrative leave with pay, will not be back next year. She submitted her resignation effective at the end of the 2009-10 school year, and it was accepted by trustees.

"Mrs. Gholson will not return to the classroom at Lampasas ISD," Hoyer said. "Teachers are subject to assignment. She is on contract, and we have to pay her through the end of the year even though she is not in the classroom."

The superintendent said Mrs. Gholson, though, is required to be available at a moment's notice to return to duties as assigned.

The board of trustees agreed to drop the matter, Hoyer said, because "it is rare the commissioner

will make a different ruling than what the hearing examiner found."

The superintendent said if there were a chance Commissioner of Education Robert Scott would change or overrule the examiner's findings, trustees would have pushed forward. "The way she handled the situation was wrong, and I would not want my son or daughter treated in the same manner."

Mrs. Gholson's attorney said his client is entitled to be paid for the remainder of her contract and that she has asked to go back to Taylor Creek. "But I don't think the superintendent has made a decision on that yet," said Conners.

The attorney said Mrs. Gholson submitted her resignation to the LISD "because a probationary employee has no rights to a hearing, no right to an appeal and no recourse. If she had not resigned, the LISD would have terminated her, and she would have a black mark on her record."

Conners said Mrs. Gholson had no prior problems, she received good appraisals, and she was well-liked by both teachers and students.

An LISD teacher is subject to a standard three-year probationary

contract, but it could be extended if during the third year the board determines it is doubtful a continuing contract should be given. If the board makes such a determination, the district may make a probationary contract for a term ending with the fourth consecutive school year.

In Mrs. Gholson's case, Hoyer said the board did not intend to offer the teacher a continuing contract.

Conners agreed with the hearing examiner's findings that there was no good cause to terminate Mrs. Gholson's employment.

"This should have been taken care of a long time ago," he said, adding that LISD should have given the teacher a written plan that outlined accommodations to be made for a student with limitations prior to the event in September.

"They didn't put together a plan of action until after the incident," Conners said. "I think they were trying to appease the student's parent, and it ended up not being successful."

Mrs. Gholson got the best possible result, said Conners. "This has been difficult on her, but she clearly won."

**Filing to begin on Monday**

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Secretary Trudy Davis.

**Lampasas ISD Board of Trustees:** Benjie Tischler has charge of candidate filing at the Human Resources Department behind the District Administration Building. Hours are Monday

through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Seats to be filled in May include Place 4, Kirk Whitehead, and Place 5, Linda Floerke.

**Lometa ISD Board of Trustees:** Three at-large positions are up for election. They are held

by Steve Stone, Ben Leggett and John Hines.

Filing will be weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the District Administration Building across the street from the school's main campus with Monica Ivey or Waunice Bessent.

**Foster seeks Precinct 4 county post**

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Missionary Association Seminary in Jacksonville. Foster and his wife, Beth, have been married more than 24 years and have four children.

With 25 years of experience in managing private funds, Foster -- a "lifetime Republican" -- said he will provide a fiscally conservative voice on the Lampasas County Commissioners Court.

"I think it's a lot harder to manage private funds than public funds," Foster said, "because if they don't have enough public funds they just raise taxes. With private funds, you can't do that."

The county budget should be run like a business budget, Foster said. "If I wouldn't spend it for myself I wouldn't spend it for the county," he said.

With good management of funds, commissioners should be able to balance future county budgets without increasing property tax rates, Foster said. The candidate said large expenditures may need to be delayed.

Foster said a new jail, for ex-

ample, should be built only if commissioners know a new facility will save money compared to housing inmates outside the county.

"We need to do everything we can before we build a jail," he said, "but if we do build a jail we need a plain Jane, vanilla jail."

The candidate added that he was unhappy with the \$500,000 purchase of 12 acres as a potential jail site, and he said he would promote transparency in county government.

Along with capital expenditures, pay raises for commissioners also concern Foster. Salaries increased from \$47,890 last fiscal year to \$49,327 this year.

He pledged to vote for a four-year freeze on salary increases for commissioners.

Foster also said he would dedicate 40 hours of work a week to commissioner duties.

"When you're not at the courthouse, you need to be with the road crews and be willing to work right alongside them," Foster said. "The

taxpayers deserve a full-time commissioner for full-time pay."

In addition, Foster said he will work to allocate road and bridge funds evenly throughout Precinct 4, as the candidate said some rural residents' roads have not been maintained enough in recent years. Precinct 4 stretches from the Evant area to south of Lampasas. It also includes property on the south side of U.S. Highway 190 as far east as Farm-to-Market Road 2808 in Kempner.

"We need to be sure the road money is distributed as evenly as possible so all taxpayers get the same benefit," Foster said.

*Thank you for reading the Lampasas Dispatch Record.*

Effective January 15, 2010, Pat Roper will no longer be seeing patients at the Seton Lampasas Healthcare Center. Patients will be seen by Charles Franz, D.O., at the clinic until further notice. If you have any questions about your care or your medical records, please contact the clinic at (512) 556-5362. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Franz in Lampasas, please call (512) 715-3118.

**Seton Lampasas HEALTHCARE CENTER**  
A facility of Seton Highland Lakes Hospital  
A member of the Seton Family of Hospitals  
www.seton.net/shl

**Aycock selected to serve on school finance committee**

District 54 state Representative Jimmie Don Aycock (R-Killeen) recently received an appointment to the state Select Committee on Public School Finance Weights, Allotments and Adjustments.

The committee, charged with promoting school accountability and post-secondary educational readiness, will review 20-year-old funding formulas for public schools in an effort to reduce achievement gaps among socioeconomic groups.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Texas House Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) announced the appointment of Aycock and seven other legislative members. Other legislative appointees are: committee co-chairman Senator Florence Shapiro (R-Plano), Senator Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock), Senator Dan Patrick (R-Houston) and Senator Royce West (D-Dallas).

Along with Aycock, Texas House appointees are select committee co-chairman Rob Eissler (R-The Woodlands), Scott Hochberg (D-Houston) and Mike Villarreal (D-San Antonio).

Along with legislative appointees, the committee includes public school community members Dr. Leonard Culwell, superintendent of schools for Garland Independent School District, and Dr. Richard Middleton, superintendent of schools for North East Independent School District in San Antonio.

Dr. Harrison Keller, vice provost for Higher Education Policy and Research, and Houston resident Larry Kellner, president of private investment firm Emerald Creek and former chief executive officer of Continental Airlines, will represent

the business community. During the Texas Legislature's 2009 session, the Select Committee was established to conduct a comprehensive review of funding formulas under the public school finance system. The committee's findings during the legislative interim period will provide the foundation for funding decisions made during the 2011 session.

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**Congressional Seat, District 11**

Republican Candidate  
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Republican Candidate  
**Jack B. Cox**  
Pol. adv. paid for by Jack B. Cox.

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**Marcus Foster**  
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**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1**

Republican Candidate  
**Andrew Garcia Jr.**  
Pol. adv. paid for by Andrew Garcia Jr.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 & 3**

Republican Candidate  
**Dick Lockett**  
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**William (W.D.) Crain**  
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Republican Candidate  
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Republican Candidate  
**David R. Ivey**  
Pol. adv. paid for by Ivey, JP Campaign Donnie Bell treasurer.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4**

Republican Candidate  
**Sheila Blackwell Hood**  
Pol. adv. paid for by Sheila Blackwell Hood.

**Early Voting: Feb. 16 - Feb. 26**  
**Primary Election: March 2, 2010**  
Advertise your candidacy before your opponent beats you to the race!  
Call Marie for details. 512-556-6262, Ext. 28