

Deaths



Mr. Lewis

Funeral services for Lampasas resident Ralph Lewis, 75, are March 9, 2010, at 2 p.m. at Sneed Funeral Chapel in Lampasas with Pastors Rick Willis and Jack Shelton officiating. Burial will be at Hines Chapel Cemetery near Adamsville.

Mr. Lewis died March 4 at Rollins Brook Community Hospital.

He was born May 21, 1934, in Billings, Mont., to Violette Lewis Israel and Jack Lewis.

He grew up on a ranch in the Powder River country south of Broadus, Mont. After leaving the ranch at 12, he lived in various small towns in Montana where his mother taught school.

Mr. Lewis graduated from Billings Senior High in 1951. After graduation, he served in the military for two years. He worked as an auto body repairman, spending much of his life in Las Vegas, Nev.

He married Marilyn Dallmann on Feb. 15, 1969, and they spent their married life in Las Vegas, Billings and Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, and finally in Lampasas.

Mr. Lewis became a clock repairman after retiring from the auto body trade.

While living in Hawaii, he studied building musical instruments and built ukeleles and guitars.

He was a Mason and longtime member of Bolder City Lodge of Nevada. He served as Master of Temple Lodge of Ryegate, Mont. In Nevada, he holds titles of Past High Priest of Chapter, Past Illustrious Master of Council and Past Commander of Commandery, and he was a member of York Rite College.

Mr. Lewis served as Royal Patron of the Amaranth while living in Hawaii. He also was a Shriner and enjoyed the role of a Shriner clown.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Lampasas.

Survivors include his wife of Lampasas; two sons, Will Lewis of Warrensburg, Mo., and Travis Lewis of Las Vegas; a granddaughter, Jennifer Pointer of Marshall, Mo.; and a great-granddaughter, Ava Ellen Pointer of Marshall.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Lampasas or Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc., 1000 East State Parkway, Ste. 1, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

SNEED FUNERAL CHAPEL
Third & Chestnut • Lampasas
512-556-1183

Mr. Price

James E. Price Jr. died Feb. 27, 2010. A memorial service is March 12 at 11 a.m. at 5 Hills Cowboy Church, 1700 FM 2808 in Kempner.

Mr. Price served in the U.S. Army, and he traveled with his family to many different military posts. He flew combat missions in Vietnam.

Mr. Price retired as a captain in 1978, settling in Texas.

He was a member of Masonic Lodge 595, Copperas Cove Chapter of Eastern Star, and he was a Shriner.

Mr. Price was an Eagle Scout. Survivors include his father, James E. Price Sr.; sons, Richard D. Lincoln and wife, Sharon, and James E. Price III; daughters, Peggy A. Haywood and husband, Bruce, and Debbie L. Brockett; sisters, Lona M. Price, Carol J. Dimon, and Ginger D. Perkins and husband, Steve; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna L. Price; his mother, Margaret M. Price; and a daughter, Sherri L. Hinton.

Memorials may be made to the Donna L. Price Scholarship Fund, OES Chapter 1070, P.O. Box 1814, Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

Arrangements by Puentes & Sons Funeral Chapels of San Antonio.

Book details World War II heroics of ace pilot

Continued from page 1
Corps, is credited with shooting down five enemy aircraft.

After he left the service, Kirby continued his connection to the military by organizing reunions held every 18 months in various locations throughout the U.S.

Kirby, who moved to Lampasas in 1975 after retiring from Gulf Oil, worked for years to keep the alumni association for his former squadron in full swing. He kept addresses current, answered mail and attended reunions regularly until his health

prevented him from doing so.

But the baton has passed to the next generation of pilots, and they now keep history alive as they have continued to stage reunions for members of the association.

"The camaraderie at those reunions was wonderful," Kirby said. "Sharing stories with those who had experiences like I did was great. There were more planes shot down at these reunions than there ever was during the war," he added.

Though his flying career ceased

after his military stint, Kirby's name is synonymous with the heroic aviators who flew many combat missions during World War II. And the tales of his adventures will live on in the words of the memoirs that detail his career in "Kirby."

Editor's note: Copies of the book were donated to the Lampasas Public Library, the Lampasas County Historical Commission, Lampasas Museum Foundation and other venues in the area.



M.F. Kirby signs copies of his book, "Kirby," to be presented to the Lampasas Library Foundation, represented by Tracy Guthrie, right, and to the Lampasas Museum Foundation, represented by Carol Wright.

City earns GO TEXAN status

Continued from page 1
crime rates, churches, schools, shopping destinations, historic preservation efforts and health care facilities — to emphasize in the application.

"They want to live in a place where they feel safe and where there's a strong sense of community," she said of retirees.

Hancock Park Golf Course, downtown murals, the Campbell Park sculpture garden and Vision Lampasas beautification efforts also appeal to those who consider moving to Lampasas, Mrs. Hargrove said.

"We feel like we have a lot to offer just here in Lampasas," she said, although venues within 60 miles also counted in Lampasas' favor on the GO TEXAN application.

Mrs. Hargrove thanked the committee that completed research for the Certified Retirement Community application. Members were Tim Angermann, Chris Ford, Mike and Kay Fox, Wayne Hickenbottom, Dianna Hodges, Robin Gradel, Cathy Kuehne, Mike and Barbara Mullican, and Shanda Subia.

"I couldn't have done it without their help," Mrs. Hargrove said.

In addition to the amenities committee members identified, Ms. Hetherly said continuing education classes to be offered at the Lampasas County Higher Education Center should help attract retirees.

City officials hope to recruit retirees from all parts of the United States. About 80 percent of retirees who move to Texas are not natives of the state, according to research cited by TDA.

"They come from all over," Mrs.

Hargrove said.

Ms. Hetherly noted that patrons at her antique shop have come from as far as the state of Washington, California and Arizona — often after learning about Lampasas on the Internet.

A profile and photos of Lampasas will be posted soon on the TDA GO TEXAN retirement Web site, www.retireintexas.org.

Recruitment efforts will target both civilian and military retirees. A report sent to city officials by retired Col. William H. Parry III, executive director for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, indicates that about one-third of Fort Hood soldiers intend to stay in Central Texas when they complete their military service. More than 60 percent would stay "if desirable employment were available," according to Parry's summary of the report.

The 2009 fourth-quarter report, which discusses Fort Hood Region Veterans Inventory Initiative Working Group survey results, will be available soon at www.hotda.org.

As part of the Texas Department of Agriculture retirement program, volunteers and city officials will work to improve conditions in Lampasas to make the city more attractive to retirees. Mrs. Hargrove is working on several "public-private partnerships," the mayor noted, and the EDC coordinator also plans to identify ways to attract entertainment venues — such as movie theaters and bowling alleys — to Lampasas.

Attracting a public transportation service to supplement the HOP transit program also can help attract and serve new city residents, Ms. Hetherly said. Past discussions have involved a possible taxi ser-

vice, said the mayor, who added that city officials may try to expand transportation opportunities through a public-private partnership.

"If Lampasas has a weakness, it is transportation. ...I really expect to see that void filled soon," Ms. Hetherly said.

Four national retailers have expressed interest in opening stores in Lampasas, Ms. Hetherly added, although the mayor said finding suitable real estate for large retail developments has been difficult. When she attended a recent International Council of Shopping Centers event, Mrs. Hargrove noted substantially increased interest in Lampasas by retailers compared to previous years.

Ms. Hetherly also mentioned building a civic center and expanding the Lampasas Public Library as priorities for the next few years.

The application for Certified Retirement Community standing, Ms. Hetherly and Mrs. Hargrove said, is part of a broad plan to expand services and economic opportunities in anticipation of population growth. The mayor expects Lampasas to post a 20 percent population increase from the 2000 national census to the 2010 enumeration.

"We're about to grow," Mrs. Hargrove said.

"And we're being more aggressive," Ms. Hetherly added.

Baked potato lunch slated

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Women's spring baked potato luncheon is Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parish hall. A baked potato with a choice of toppings, tossed salad, dessert and a drink is

\$7 in advance at the church office or at the door. Carry-outs are offered.

For delivery for parties of five or more, phone 556-5433 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Home destroyed in county fire

A fire that destroyed a home at 2269 County Road 4330 on Friday appeared to have started with a discarded cigarette, County Fire Marshal Gene Harrison said.

The Lampasas Fire Department received a call at 3:59 p.m. about a fire at the home of Julian Q. Mercado and his wife, Tammy.

The fire started on a back wooden deck where household items, including blankets and cardboard boxes, were located, Harrison said. The blaze spread from the deck to several windows and to the attic of the doublewide mobile home.

"The firefighters from Lampasas and Kempner did a good job once they got there and kept it from burning all the way to the ground," Harrison said.

Nevertheless, because of heavy fire damage throughout the resi-

dence, the county fire marshal called the home "a total loss."

Mercado was not at the residence when the fire began, and his wife, who was home, was not injured, Harrison said.

Although the Red Cross was contacted, the couple already had made other arrangements for a place to stay, the fire official said.

At 4:31 when Harrison arrived to investigate the blaze, firefighters had stopped the fire's spread. Some flames still were visible, though, he said. Firefighters remained at the residence when the fire marshal left at 5:45, Harrison said.

Along with the Lampasas Fire Department and the Kempner Volunteer Fire Department, the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office also responded to the fire.

Kempner OKs mutual aid pact

By MAT TAYLOR
Special Correspondent

Kempner City Council recently approved a Mutual Aid Agreement with local entities regarding emergency management. Police Chief David Sheedy presented the agreement to the council.

Sheedy said the arrangement is between Lampasas County; the cities of Kempner, Lampasas and Lometa; the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office; all county volunteer fire departments and police departments; Rollins Brook Community Hospital; and emergency medical services.

"The parties agree in instances of man-made or natural disasters to cooperate with and provide mutual aid to each in their efforts to respond and recover from a disaster or emergency," Sheedy said. "Cooperation and mutual aid would include haz-mat teams, fire suppression, search and rescue, law enforcement, transportation and logistics, and other emergency management items."

The police chief added that in case of an emergency situation, the parties should expedite communication with each other to determine what aid may be requested.

Kempner already has a mutual aid agreement with the county for law enforcement and other services, however, Sheedy said the new agreement strengthens and expands mutual aid services.

The new agreement also would enable Kempner to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for some city expenses related to a disaster.

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Cook asked if the Kempner Police Department could communicate with other local parties. Sheedy said he can communicate with the Sheriff's Department but cannot communicate directly with some volunteer fire departments or the Texas Highway Patrol, as they are not on the same radio frequency.

The police chief added that new digital radio equipment will be purchased this year, which will enable the police department to have improved communications with other participants of the mutual aid agreement.

In other business, Mayor Gene Isenhour said the city has let a contract for curb and gutter installation at the Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park parking lot. The contract also calls for four more inches of base to be laid in preparation for paving. Isenhour also said he has received approval from the Tucker family for wording that will be placed on a commemorative granite marker in the park.

The mayor recently received an award from KWTX-TV station, as he was named boss of the month. Isenhour was featured on the news program, where he received a plaque. He was nominated by Assistant City Secretary Trudy Davis and selected from more than 90 other applicants.

Isenhour said his award was due to the work of an excellent city staff and the cooperation of Kempner residents.

Cover shot

Get out those cameras and start looking for the snapshot you believe best represents Lampasas County.

If your photograph is selected, it could appear on the cover of the Lampasas Dispatch Record's 2010-11 Guide to Lampasas, and the winner could receive a one-year subscription to the Dispatch Record.

To enter, send a photo to P.O. Box 631, Lampasas, TX 76650, or submit it by e-mail to news@lampasas.com (please send a jpg file of at least 300 dpi). Photos also may be delivered to 416 S. Live Oak St. on Courtyard Square.

Entries must be submitted by Friday for consideration.

YOU ARE APPROVED!
"BUY HERE, PAY HERE" AT BENNY BOYD!
BANKRUPTCY, BAD CREDIT? NO HANG-UPS OR GIMMICKS! Down Payments As Low As \$499 TOUGH TIMES CALL FOR SMART BUYERS! You need a better vehicle, but you can't get financing? So see Benny! WHEN THE BANKS SAY NO, BENNY SAYS YES! YES! YES!
Ask for Matt Nitz
Better Buy From **Benny Boyd**
bennyboyd.com 800-760-4880
601 N. Key Ave., LAMPASAS
DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep
Take HWY 190 West To Lampasas, then North on Key Avenue. Benny Boyd is 601 N. Avenue on the right!