



Turnover rate falls in PPISD

By Keith Magee
Assistant Editor

When the Pilot Point ISD greets its new teachers on Aug. 13, it will be a small, intimate gathering this year.

Only seven new teachers will join the district this year, which is down from 19 new hires in 2008-09 and 13 or 14 two years ago, Superintendent Glenn Barber said.

"That's unbelievable," Barber said of the low turnover rate.

Last year's rate was 28 percent. "I think that's a real compliment to the superintendent and the other administrators," School Board President Larry T. Smith said.

Barber said one of the keys to retaining employees was the district's successful tax rate election last October, which included a salary increase for employees.

"That was a big help," Barber said. "I think people have been pleased with the direction the school district is going. I'm tickled to death."

Barber said a federal stimulus program for Texas schools that will offer a salary increase is expected to be announced next week, which will include increases based on the size of the school districts. Pilot Point's increases are expected to be \$870 a step.

"Our staff has just been great," Barber said. "They work together well."

Several years ago, the school district began dipping into its reserve funds and had a negative balance in 2005-06. But since that time, the district has slowly been building up its reserve funds and getting out of the hole financially.

"I really appreciate the people who have stuck by us," Barber said.

After new teachers arrive Aug. 13-14, all teachers will return Aug. 17 to hear a motivational speech at Midway Church. A district-wide assembly is set for Aug. 18, with staff development on Aug. 19-20. The first day of school is Aug. 24.

Aubrey civic leader Goin dies at 79

By Keith Magee
Assistant Editor

Bouncer Goin, a fourth generation Aubrey resident, former City Council member, mayor and local historian, died Friday, July 24, 2009. He was 79 years old.

Goin was a part of many city, school and community organizations and had been involved in the Cherokee Nation of Texas for the last 30 years.

He held the position of Beloved Man — the highest honor a person can hold — in the Cherokee Nation of Texas.

"He had all the Aubrey Cherokee historical information," said Dwayne Carroll, Spirit Leader of the Cherokee Nation of Texas. "He worked long and hard collecting that information. It's really been beneficial to our cause."

Carroll, who operates 1st. Native American Hair Design in Aubrey, knew Goin from the days when he helped his wife, Jackie, operate Jackie's Hardware on Main Street. Carroll would visit the store's toy section as a youngster.

"He got me interested in the history of Aubrey," Carroll said. "We'd been working for years on that."

Carroll said that Goin treated everyone in town as if they were part of his own family. He also said it was pointless to be in a hurry if you were to run into him.

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Crunching numbers

City Manger J.C. Hughes looks over budget figures during a meeting of the council Monday night.

David Lewis/The Post-Signal

Council cuts fees to spur building

By David Lewis
Editor

Developers and builders will get a break over the next year as the city tries to jump-start development.

The City Council Monday night voted to reduce four categories of building fees by half, starting immediately and continuing for the next 12 months. Builders will pay 50 percent less for building permits, impact fees, and water and sewer taps.

Councilman Bob Heuman, who made the motion to reduce the fees, said he hopes the move will induce builders to take a new look at Pilot Point. Last year, the city issued five residential building permits, and three were for houses built under a grant program for low-income residents. Only one residential permit has been issued this year.

Commercial construction also is at a standstill. The city issued two commercial

building permits in 2008 but has issued none so far this year.

"We're dead, unless we change this somehow and get somebody interested," Heuman said in an interview after Monday night's council meeting. "Half of something is better than nothing. If we can get somebody to build and get taxes off of it, we're making progress."

The four fees add \$5,500
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EVERYTHING'S IN PLACE



Workers moved the exterior sign for Dennards into place at the business' new location on U.S. 377 between Pilot Point and Aubrey Wednesday. The company, headquartered in Whitesboro, is opening its third location in the building formerly occupied by Sergeant's Western Wear.

Keith Magee/The Post-Signal

Bridge to open to traffic

By Keith Magee
Assistant Editor

Almost 20 years after it was first proposed, the new Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge will open to traffic Saturday, giving area residents a new way to reach I-35.

The bridge intersects with Eldorado Parkway in Little Elm, crosses a narrow point of the lake and comes out at Swisher Road in Lake Dallas just east of I-35 south of Denton.

Local officials are anticipating that the bridge will be an economic boost to Northeast Denton County as it provides a more direct route to Dallas.

"I'm still convinced that once that bridge opens, it's going to open up the (U.S.) 377 corridor to increased traffic and growth," Pilot Point City Manager J.C. Hughes said.

"It will be an easier way to access I-35 than in the past. I think it's going to have a major impact."

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Hugh Coleman agreed that the tollway will have a positive impact on the area.

"It's going to be a great boost to the area," Coleman said. "It will save people time. It will help people who are coming down 377 to get to I-35 without having to go to Denton."

"It will also help the economic development of the area," Coleman added. "It's a good thing in general."

Hughes pointed to the impact that the Dallas North Tollway extension had on Little Elm when it expanded to U.S. 380.

"You can't underestimate what impact [the bridge] will have," Hughes said.

The bridge was first proposed in a 1991 county bond issue. Voters approved \$7 mil-

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Diane Chilton and her husband Howard Harper show two of their mares whose 2110 offspring will be eligible for the Texas Equine Incentive Program.

Keith Magee/The Post-Signal

New law said a boost to area horse industry

By Keith Magee
Assistant Editor

A new law that will go into effect in September should be an economic boost for the state's world-class horse industry, including the U.S. 377 Horse Country.

The Texas Equine Incentive Law, created by HB 1881, was approved in May and signed by Gov. Rick Perry on June 19. It becomes law on Sept. 1.

The groundbreaking legislation

creates a monetary incentive to keep quarter, paint and appaloosa horses breeding, showing or racing in Texas.

"These stock horse breeds truly represent Texas' horse heritage, as well as an important part of the state's economy," said Pilot Point resident Diane Chilton of the Texas Bred Horse Association.

The non-gaming bill was introduced into the Texas House by Rep. **Continued on Page 11**

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Edland outlines plan to save job

By David Lewis
Editor

Police Chief James Edland Monday night proposed a system for code enforcement that would prevent the loss of an officer from his department in the 2009-10 city budget.

In a presentation to the City Council, Edland laid out a plan to have officers make note of code violations while on their regular patrols. He said his plan would eliminate the need to hire a full-time code enforcement officer as proposed by City Manager J.C. Hughes.

"I just think if there are additional things you want to do as far as code enforcement, that could be absorbed into the patrolman's duties," Edland said.

Hughes' proposed budget for 2009-10 calls for eliminating the sergeant's position from the Police Department and reassigning Sgt. Richard Clark to patrol. Hughes would use the money freed up by the changes to hire a full-time code enforcement officer.

Edland asked the council during a July 20 budget workshop if he could present a plan that would prevent the loss of Clark's position. Council members said they would like to see his plan, and he presented it Monday night — although



Police Chief James Edland explained his proposal for code enforcement to the City Council Monday night.

David Lewis/The Post-Signal

Hughes said he hasn't seen it in advance.

"I got this package 10 minutes before the meeting started, so you know as much as I do," Hughes told the council before Edland started his presentation.

Edland said his officers could locate code violations while on patrol and investigate code violations that are reported by citizens. The officers would document the violations and turn the information over to the Police Department's administrative assistant, who would send notification letters concerning the violations. Citations would be issued to those who don't correct their violations, Edland said.

Under Edland's plan, Lisa Rose, the city's current part-time code enforcement/animal control officer, would retain her present hours and duties. The department's present staffing also would remain intact, and funds for a full-time code enforcement officer would be dropped from the budget.

Clark handles a variety of administrative duties, Edland said.

"He does the vast majority of stuff it takes for day-to-day operation," Edland said. "He assists me with so much that it's hard to line it all out."

Clark would be reassigned to night duty, which would require the termina-

tion of Officer Bryan Kile.

Edland also pointed out that the department has lost positions in the last two city budgets. The school resource officer was eliminated in 2007, and a patrol officer's position was eliminated last year.

"We're short-handed," Edland said. "I think we can restructure [code enforcement] into the Police Department. I think it's something we can do without demoting somebody."

Edland made his presentation during a budget workshop, which was held after the council's regular meeting. Council members are to hold another budget workshop Monday night.

By David Lewis
Editor

Starting Oct. 1, Pilot Point residents will roll their trash to the street once a week.

The City Council Monday night approved a contract with IESI for weekly garbage pickup in 96-gallon rolling bins. The service will begin when the city's current contract with Waste Management expires.

IESI, a Fort Worth company, and Waste Management were among four companies that submitted bids on the city's garbage-collection contract. The city accepted bids on weekly bin collection and twice-weekly bag collection. Waste Management currently provides twice-weekly bag collection.

The two low bids were virtually identical for both types of residential collection. IESI's bid for weekly bin collection was \$13,878.38 per month, compared to Waste Management's bid of \$13,614.86.

IESI's bid for commercial pickup was lower, however. Overall, IESI's total bid was \$18,000 per year less than Waste Management's.

The council voted 3-1 to award the contract to IESI after hearing representatives of the two companies criticize each other's service and bidding practices. IESI altered its prices after the bids were open, claiming it had included the city's 7 percent franchise fee by mistake. Waste Management also altered its bid, dropping the proposed charges for hauling sludge from the city wastewater treatment plant.

Before the vote was taken, councilman Champ Walker said the bids should be thrown out and the process started over. Walker voted against the motion to award the contract to IESI.

"I voted against it because I thought the whole thing was out of bounds," Walker said in an interview. "I think everybody should have been forced to rebid it. I think we should have narrowed it down little bit to exactly what we want, then have them bid on exactly what we want."

The council awarded the contract on a motion by councilman Pete Hollar with little discussion. In an interview, Hollar said he made the motion because IESI's overall bid was less and because he has been dissatisfied with Waste Management's service at times.

"This new company was less money," Hollar said. "I was looking for a reason to switch. I like the carts. It will make the whole town neater."

IESI enthusiastically promoted the use of bins, which customers will roll to the side of the street and will be emptied by automated trucks. The company will provide the carts free to local residents.

"I just thought that was the way everybody else was going and it was time for us to get into the future and get on the same bandwagon with trash pickup," Hollar said.

IESI's contract also will include once-a-week recycling pickup in 96-gallon bins. Hollar said people may recycle more since the bins will hold more than the tubs presently used by Waste Management.

Although he voted against awarding the contract to IESI, Walker said he supports the use of bins.

"It's a proven system," he said. "Is it going to take time for people to get used to it? Sure it is. But it's a system that works."

Council reduces building fees

Continued from Page 1

to the cost of an \$80,000 house, City Manager J.C. Hughes said in a report to the council. The fees are higher on construction that is worth more.

Hughes raised the idea of cutting the fees during a council meeting on July 13. The council was receptive, so the issue was placed on

Monday night's agenda for a vote.

Councilman Pete Hollar said he got a positive response when he ran the idea past a builder.

"He told me that if we did that, he would build two homes," Hollar said. "He said it would be enough to make him get off dead center."

Hughes said he got a

similar response when he discussed the idea with builders.

"In this economy, they need some flexibility to be more competitive," Hughes, said in an interview. "It puts them in a more competitive position."

Hughes called the fee reduction "a win-win situation" for the city and developers.

"We have to do something to spur growth," he said.

Mark Roth was the only council member who appeared skeptical about the idea, though he voted for Heuman's motion.

"It's liable to help, but it may not," Roth said.

Rain delays work on AISD projects

By Keith Magee
Assistant Editor

The recent rain may be much needed for the area, but it's playing havoc on the summer construction projects at Aubrey High School.

"The weather is killing us," Assistant Superintendent H.L. Brockett said Wednesday. "It's going down to the wire, but we knew that all along."

One project — the new practice gym — has been delayed because of the weather and won't be ready until sometime in September. However, school officials said early on they would be focused on getting the classroom addition and other projects completed first.

"They are working on trying to get us into the classrooms," Brockett said. "Get your fingers crossed that we'll be in there when school starts."

The big project is a two-story wing that includes 14 classrooms, four science labs, two computer labs, restrooms, lockers and an administrative area. The projects are Phase II of the Aubrey High School expansion approved by voters in a \$34 million bond election in November 2006.

The cafeteria is also being doubled in size, and additional offices are being added to the front offices. An additional parking lot and more parking spaces in the front parking lot are being added to make up for the lost spaces because of the new gym.

Brockett, who addressed school board members during their monthly meeting, did have some good news. Some of

the construction costs are not as high as what was set in the guaranteed maximum price (GMP), so more funding may become available for additional projects.

The district has already been able to spend \$100,000 for new floor covering in the high school and \$60,000 for waterproofing the existing building and the field house.

The district will also be able to make \$94,000 in roof repairs, and if additional funding is available, officials will be able to resurface the track at Chaparral Stadium for \$65,000.

In other business Wednesday, the school board approved salary schedules for teachers, which includes a 3 percent raise, which is \$800 and a step raise. Teachers will receive \$80 per weighted average daily attendance (WADA) or \$800, whichever is higher.

"They'll receive \$800 up front, then we'll settle up if it's higher at the end of the year," Superintendent Jim Monaco said.

The starting salary for a first-year teacher is \$39,000 with a bachelor's degree and \$40,500 with a master's degree.

Substitute pay was increased \$10 per day to \$75 for a certified teacher, \$60 for a non-certified teacher and \$50 for a paraprofessional.

During his report, Monaco told board members that the district should be able to have a balanced budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Earlier this year, the district was looking at as much as a \$1 million shortfall.

Goin a 'pillar of the community'

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"He was a talker," Carroll said. "You might as well get ready to be there for an hour."

Carroll said it was hard to single out things about Goin because he had done so much for the community.

"He's always been my role model," Carroll said. "It's hard to put into words. He's been my mentor."

Current City Council member Francis Carter said Goin and his family have been important icons to the community.

"He was always friendly," she said. "He always spoke to everyone. He was always so interested in our city."

Goin was elected to the Aubrey City Council from 1960-65 and again from 1992-95. He was mayor from 1963 to 1965.

During his first tenure, the city's police and fire departments were established, and he was a charter member of the Aubrey Volunteer Fire Department. He was also the city's first municipal judge.

Goin also was involved with the Aubrey ISD, serving as a school board member and president in the 1970s. He established the Aubrey Main Street Committee in 1988, serving as president.

"He always wanted what was best for Aubrey," Carter said.

Carter now serves on that committee along with fellow City Council member Deborah Goin, Bouncer's daughter. Deborah also continues to run the family store on Main Street.

He was a charter member of the Aubrey Area Chamber of Commerce and also served as that organization's president at one time.

"Bouncer was indeed a pillar of the community and gave to his family and town so very much," Pat Brockett of the Aubrey Area Chamber of Commerce said in an e-mail. "We will all miss him dearly."

Goin's full name was Onor Weldon Goin, but he got the nickname "Bouncer" early in his life. During his funeral service on Monday, the Rev. Joe Gist of Aubrey First United Methodist Church said his siblings gave him that name because he bounced in his crib all the time.

Also participating in the service was the Rev. Tommy Brummett, who served the church 20 years ago and was a friend of Goin's.

Also during the service, Carroll performed a "passing over" ceremony, which he said "helps the soul pass over to the other side smoothly."

The ceremony was a Cherokee ritual, and although it is not required, Carroll performed the ceremony in Cherokee regalia.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, others who attended the funeral participated in the ritual by putting sage into the grave,



The flag outside Aubrey City Hall flew at half-staff this week in memory of the late Bouncer Goin.

Keith Magee/The Post-Signal

Carroll said. Flags at Aubrey City Hall and the Aubrey Fire Department's Station 1 were lowered to half-staff this week in memory of Goin.

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