Hoxie considering location for new city hall

Megan Heyl
Staff Writer

The Hoxie City Council met Monday night to tour the former IberiaBank building at 128 Southwest Texas Street. The building is being considered as the future site of the Hoxie City Hall and police department.

Mayor Dennis Coggins presented information about cost and possible payment options at the Feb. 12 regular meeting. Coggins explained that the building had been negotiated at $850,000 down and $71,000,000 monthly payments would be $847.23 over 10 years and $149.07 over 20 years. A five-year plan is also being looked into.

Upon touring the facility, the council voted to allow Coggins to enter negotiations on a final contract to be presented to the council at a special meeting Tuesday night at 5:30.

The council requested the roof and heat and air be inspected before a purchase is made.

Also at Monday’s meeting, the council voted to enter into the Positive Pay program at IberiaBank. Following an increase in fraudulent checks targeting municipalities, Coggins informed the council that the Municipal League has advised them to increase protection.

Coggins said Hoxie has had two checks reported by the bank and both checks were caught before they were processed. The Walnut Ridge Regional Airport Commission recently reported that a fraudulent check did pass through its account.

Positive Pay offers an addi-

See HOXIE... page 14A.

WR moving forward on one-way streets

Megan Heyl
Staff Writer

The Walnut Ridge City Council voted to move forward on changing sections of Southwest and Northwest Second streets to one-way.

Mayor Charles Snapp said the plan is to have Southwest Second (Abbey Road) be southbound only from Main to Elm and Northwest Second to be northbound from Main to Walnut.

Walnut Ridge East students were asked to make a presentation on the Abbey Road portion of the project. The students showed the lack of visibility at the crossing at Main Street. It also mapped out increased parking with angled spots on one side of the road. Cost estimates for the Abbey Road portion were presented at about $1,100, which includes signage and striping.

Snapp said the city would proceed with research on both streets and seek counsel from the state on the process required to make changes.

Incident causes lockdown at Hoxie School

Gretchen Hunt
Editor

Hoxie School was placed on lockdown for a little over an hour Friday morning after a reported threat involving a gun was called into 911.

According to Sergeant Jamie White with the Lawrence County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investi-

The name of the subject is not being released at this time pending formal charges.

“The suspect went before Judge Weeks at 11 a.m. (Tuesday) for a probable-cause hearing and was given a $10,000 bond,” White said. “However, formal charges are still pending.”

According to a statement State Police and Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, responded to the call.

After interviewing multiple witnesses, it was learned that a student had made a comment regarding a possible firearm on the campus,” the statement said. “Students overheard the comment and believed it to be...
Agri Appreciation Expo draws crowd

Gretchen Hunt

Editor

The 2019 Lawrence and Randolph County Agri Appreciation Expo was held Friday at Black River Technical College in Pocahontas offering local farmers an opportunity to learn from experts, network with each other, visit with agriculture-related businesses and enjoy a meal together.

The event is a joint effort of the Lawrence and Randolph County Chambers of Commerce and University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Extension Service for the two counties.

Lesa Walter, director of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, said the event was well attended despite unfavorable weather.

“ wasted more than 50 vendor booths, and approximately 450 in attendance,” she said.

Rich Hillman, vice president of Arkansas Farm Bureau, was the keynote speaker. In addition, professors and Extension experts conducted break out sessions on row crops, livestock and horticulture topics.

Herb Ginn, Lawrence County Extension agent, said he worked with the horticulture breakout, during which information was shared on growing berries, as well as vegetables that are common in gardens.

“People went away with a lot more knowledge about growing small fruit,” Ginn said. “They learned a lot about how to control disease in those and vegetables, as well.”

Extension Agent Bryce Baldridge said the row crop sessions provided a lot of valuable information, including production practices, variety selection and irrigation.

The event also provided opportunities for agriculture students at high schools in the two counties.

“ASU and BRTC provided classes for the high school students,” Walter said. “The students were also given a tour of the BRTC campus.”

See EXPO... page 14A.

Law Co. raises $12,372 for Make-A-Wish

Gretchen Hunt

Editor

Freezing temperatures and dizziness, rain, didn’t stop volunteers from manning road blocks in Walnut Ridge and Hoxie on Friday as they raised $12,372 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Jennifer Archer, who served as coordinator in Lawrence County, along with Felipe Baiza, said the Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon raised a combined $74,655.49 across the region.

Locally, students from Hoxie and Walnut Ridge Schools volunteered to man roadblocks, along with many individual volunteers from the community.

She said the Walnut Ridge Police Department, Walnut Ridge Fire Department, Hoxie Police Department, Cook’s Wrecker Service and Craighead Electric Cooperative were also vital in making the event a success.

Food donations for volunteers were received from Sonic, Pizza Hut, Main Street Pizza and McDonald’s.

Archer expressed her appreciation to all who worked the roadblocks and all who gave in Lawrence County and throughout Northeast Arkansas.

“The generosity of the people in Northeast Arkansas amazes me every year,” she said. “I am so blessed to see the children’s faces when we grant their wish. And it’s all because of the giving.”