

# Election Roundup

from page 1A

## ESD from page 1A

county has been covered by ESDs #1, #2 and #3 for several years, the Buffalo/Flo/Oakwood area had in the past repeatedly voted down measures to create an emergency services district to fund volunteer fire departments and ambulance services. Early this year, Palestine Regional Hospital had announced that they would pull out their unfunded ambulance service, effective April 7. Proponents of the ESD had hurried to get a proposition on the May ballot. Both supporters and opponents of the measure had launched strong campaigns. Apparently very few people were neutral on the issue.

As Election Day came to a close, the votes were tabulated and posted on the white boards on the Courthouse Square Saturday evening and the proposition for the creation of ESD #4 had passed by a more than a two-to-one margin, 737 to 315. The proposition passed at each individual polling place by the following margins: Precinct #10 Inside W Buffalo - FOR 48, AGAINST 9; Precinct #10 Outside W Buffalo - FOR 195, AGAINST 63; Precinct #11 Inside E Buffalo - FOR 231, AGAINST 62; Precinct #11, Outside E Buffalo - FOR 92, AGAINST 36; Precinct #12 Inside Oakwood - FOR 78, AGAINST 31; Precinct 12 Outside Oakwood - FOR 141, AGAINST 92; and Precinct #13 Flo - FOR 104, AGAINST 61.

Legacy EMS, which has based an ambulance in

the Buffalo area for the past month on a temporary basis, has agreed to continue until a permanent contract is established between the ESD #4 and an ambulance service. The ESD #4 is expected to get a loan to fund the 24/7 service until property taxes are collected in the fall. Individuals USING the ambulance service will still be billed for the service.

The new tax to fund the ESD will be set by an appointed board, and cannot exceed ten cents per \$100/property value. The Leon County Commissioners Court will appoint the initial five-member board in a special called meeting at 9:30 on Tuesday morning, May 12.

## Dawkins from page 1A

Mayor Pro Tem since the resignation of Ken Stevens. In the mayorial election Dawkins defeated challenger Karen Sallee Jackson by a margin of 232 to 100.

"I'd like to thank everybody for voting for me. Now I can get down to city business...get the programs started," Mayor Dawkins stated from his City Hall office on Monday morning. He concluded, "My office is always going to be open to the citizens."

Two at-large positions on the City Council were also filled in Saturday's election. Incumbent Tim Ezell was re-elected, and Dianne Ryder was elected to the second

## Centerville School Board retains incumbents

By Sherry Matney

Centerville Independent School District held a School Board Election on May 9, 2009. Charles Nash, incumbent for Position 3 was unopposed and received 159 votes.

For Position 4 challenger Forrest Glen Washington, Sr. received 8 votes and incumbent Mike Asby garnered 175.

Kathy Gresham ran for Position 5 and was unopposed. She acquired 132 votes.

## Voting at the Lone Star Community Center

By Sherry Matney

Although there was only one item on the ballot, turnout was good for the community of Flo at the Lone Star Community Center in Saturday's election. The question was whether or not the northeastern portion of Leon County wanted an Emergency Services District (ESD) to fund ambulance services. And in spite of the harsh tone of the election there was not one derogatory comment, for or against, at the polling place.

The debate was fairly vocal with letters being mailed from both sides. The pros argued that forming an ESD and taxing property owners was the most logical way of providing an ambulance service.

The cons said that it was unfair to tax property owners when all northeastern Leon County residents would receive the service. They wanted a sales tax alternative or possibly a private ambulance service without a subsidy.

And after all the meetings, speeches and letters it

open position.

The voting for the two council seats was: Dianne Ryder (186), Tim Ezell (163), Steve Oliver (107), Mack Jackson (47), Bob Winn (36), Rosa Whitehorn Smith (32), Louis Fondren (32) and Buster Kilgore (22).

## Leon ISD from page 1A

while Schmidt garnered 486.

Position 3 had another upset with incumbent Board Secretary Chad Prior receiving 226 votes and challenger Collen Robertson collecting 464.

In Position 2 Vice Presi-

dent Darren Thomas was the only incumbent to win his position back. Thomas got 463 votes, Shawn Noey 201, and Nichole Curls received 29.

The Leon School District has been plagued by controversy for the past year beginning with the removal and arrest of Principal David Jones in February of 2008. Jones was charged with abuse of a child but the charges were dismissed by County Attorney Jim Witt after an eye witness came forward.

Earlier in 2009 the Board could not reach an agreement on the high school teachers' contracts. Additionally Coach

Rusty Robinson tendered his resignation for reasons undisclosed and the board split 4 to 3 to accept his resignation. One source said these two issues caused anxiety among the faculty and their families.

The race was hard fought on both sides. But in the end the people spoke for change. A faculty member said the school is excited about the outcome and look forward to what new, fresh leadership can bring. Construction is underway on a new high school and field house.

Board members remaining are Keith Watson, Billy Evans, Ryan O'Neal and Gil-

bert Garcia.

## Jewett from page 1A

Kirkpatrick said "The race was very close and I am extremely happy to get to serve another term. There was not the turnout that we had hoped but I'm thankful for the result."

Filling two spots on the Jewett City Council incumbents Bessie Woodall and Carmen Flores won with 83 and 65 votes, respectively. Carl Foley received 25 votes.

John Sitton ran unopposed for a 1 year unexpired term and received 97 votes.

## Commissioners

the new high school, gym and field house. "We have the (new) road completed at this time -- an excellent road worked under the supervision of Commissioner Ivey -- so we are ready to shut down the old road and begin the construction project," Winn summed up. The Court approved the action.

Veterans Service Officer Gary Maples' monthly report included an update on the plans for Saturday's celebration of Leon County's veterans. Veteran's Appreciation Day will be held at Centerville High School's old gym from 10:00 - 4:00, and will include a meal for veterans.

County Treasurer Phil Skelton presented a request to release two old pledged securities and accept a new pledge from Citizens State Bank. Skelton verified that the county would still be 110%+ covered under the new pledged securities and the action passed. In a related decision the court also authorized Skelton to go out for bids on the county's depository because the current contract with CSB is about to expire.

Commissioner Joey Sullivan recommended transferring Liberty Cemetery Road (CR 302) from Precinct

#1 to Precinct #3.

In other business, the Commissioners:

- Appointed Tammy Coulter to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee at the BVCOG.

- Post-approved the resolution requesting action by the legislature to correct the issue of under-valuation of oil and gas properties.

- Accepted a bid from Robert and Cheryl Pate in the amount of \$2500 for Suite #T-08-51. Normangee ISD had already approved the bid.

- Approved a pipeline agreement with Encana Oil and Gas, Inc. for CR 482 in Precinct #4.

The commissioners were introduced to Mike Brooks and Darla Dear, auditors with Belt, Harris and Associates of Houston. That firm is currently conducting the county's annual audit.

Purchasing Agent Susan Pugh explained that the annual inspection and maintenance agreement on the elevator in Annex II is up for renewal. At Pugh's recommendation the Commissioners authorized that she add that elevator to the contract which services Annex I, at an additional cost of \$540/quarter.



Jay Winn

## BOUND FOR AGGIELAND?

Attention Graduating Seniors:

Local Aggies have been extra generous this year, and the Leon County A&M Club is proud to be able to offer one \$500 scholarship in EACH school district in the county. The funds will be applied to your 2009-10 tuition at Texas A&M. Prospective recipients must: (1) be current graduates; (2) reside in Leon County; (3) have been accepted for enrollment at Texas A&M's College Station campus.

Applications are now available from your high school counselor, or by contacting Vanessa Goodwyn at 903-388-9305.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 15TH.**

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A big heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who through countless hours of service got the word out.

Thanks to all the voters who used their compassionate hearts to insure that ALL who may need it will receive professional emergency care.

Thanks and God bless all our volunteer firemen and women and dedicated E.M.T.S.

Thanks to our elected officials who have worked so tirelessly to provide our part of Leon County with quality emergency service.

Sincerely,  
Howard & Pat Myers

all came down to one thing. What the voters wanted. A large portion of Precinct 13 was allowed to vote Saturday but some were not; only those who were not in Centerville's ESD 1 could make their opinion known. Most voters were aware if they were in ESD 1 and did not attempt to vote but a few had to be turned away.

The county provided a list of everyone in Precinct 13 which totaled 490. They also provided a map showing the ESD 4 boundaries. The elec-

tion clerks' responsibility was to be sure no one voted that shouldn't vote.

When all was said and done about 5 people were turned away and they weren't trying to sneak anything by. They simply weren't aware that they were already paying a tax and could have ambulance service out of Centerville if needed.

The final tally for those casting their votes on Saturday was 84 for the ESD and 50 against. There were 30 votes cast in early voting.

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