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MRS. LITA WATSON
520 N. CLARA
IOWA PARK TX 76367 112

Happy Thanksgiving

IOWA PARK LEADER

30 Cents

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Council okays purchase of landfill equipment

The city council Monday night approved purchase of a major piece of equipment and a change order on the police department expansion plan, but took no action on a request to adjust the commercial fee for dumping at the landfill.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Coker chaired the meeting after it was announced Mayor Tim Hunter's father, Alton, had died in a Wichita Falls hospital earlier in the day.

Though the city received only one bid in response to its advertisement to purchase an elevated scrapper, aldermen approved Darr Equipment Company's bid of \$111,000.

Administrator James Barrington, using cost figures for digging the most recent landfill pit, said the scrapper would pay for itself in three to four years.

He said at least \$45,000 of the pit's \$68,000 cost was digging the hole. The balance was the cost of lining the flooring and walls, as required by the state.

The scrapper can also be used in other projects, such as street work, as well as covering dumpings daily in the landfill pit.

In the motion approving the purchase, the city will make a downpayment of \$26,000, and finance the balance over five years at 7.5 percent interest.

Delivery is expected with seven weeks.

Barrington told the council he had been contacted by a representative of Southwestern Bell Telephone, to discuss space needed for electronic equipment needed for the Enhanced 9-1-1 system.

However, he told aldermen there was not an eight-foot-square area available, within the required distance of the police station, where the computer equipment for 9-1-1 will be located.

He proposed two alternatives: add onto the expansion plan for the police station, or make an arrange-

ment to move the Chamber of Commerce office and use part of it.

The equipment space must be so constructed that it provides both climate and dust control, the Bell representative told Barrington.

After considering the expense of relocating the Chamber's office, aldermen decided the lesser expense would be to add onto the expansion plan of the police department, a project already underway.

The change will add to the cost \$7,875, architect Don Daughterly told the council.

Following a public hearing made by Robert Harper, who asked that the commercial fee be lowered at the landfill, aldermen voted to make no changes in the fee structure.

Harper told the council most of his tree and shrub trimming work was done for elderly and retired persons "who are already on limited income."

He said to pass along a charge of \$12 for each pickup load he took from each job would be excessive.

But when asked why he didn't pay the annual commercial hauler's fee of \$100, he responded that he did not know if he would get a job after he had paid it, and that he would probably have to borrow the money to pay such a fee.

"Actually, I'm doing ya'll a favor by hauling that out there," he said, after explaining such trimmings used to be handled by city workers, but had since been discontinued.

The purchase of street signs to be set at 150 intersections in the city was approved, at a cost of \$4,500.

Street Department workers have for the past two years been replacing or installing new, signs at intersections. This will complete the project, Mike Price, public works director, said.

The signs, expected to be received within six weeks, will be green lettering on a white background.

A second public hearing on a

block grant application was held. The funds, if received, would be matched with local funds to correct water tower elevation problems, Barrington said.

Cost of the project was estimated at \$600,000.

Barrington proposed an ordinance be brought before the council in the near future which would penalize the water customers who are regularly late in paying their bills.

He said the cost of notifying such customers must be borne by all customers, and didn't feel it right.

Council members agreed, and told him to have an ordinance drawn for consideration at the next meeting.

A request for travel expenses for Barrington and Price to inspect an incinerator at the Cryovac plant at Simpsonville, S.C. was approved.

The administrator explained that a representative of a firm, Kindel, Stone and Associates, contracted by the city to make a study of building an incinerator here, would accompany the two local men.

Following a 51-minute executive session of the council, called for "Pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers," and "personnel," Alderman Coker made a brief statement that "No action will be taken as result of the executive session."

Gun reported stolen here

Police are investigating the theft of a .357 caliber pistol that was reported Saturday as missing.

Charles Wright, 508 E. Alameda, said the gun had a four-inch barrel, and its serial number was listed on state and national computers.

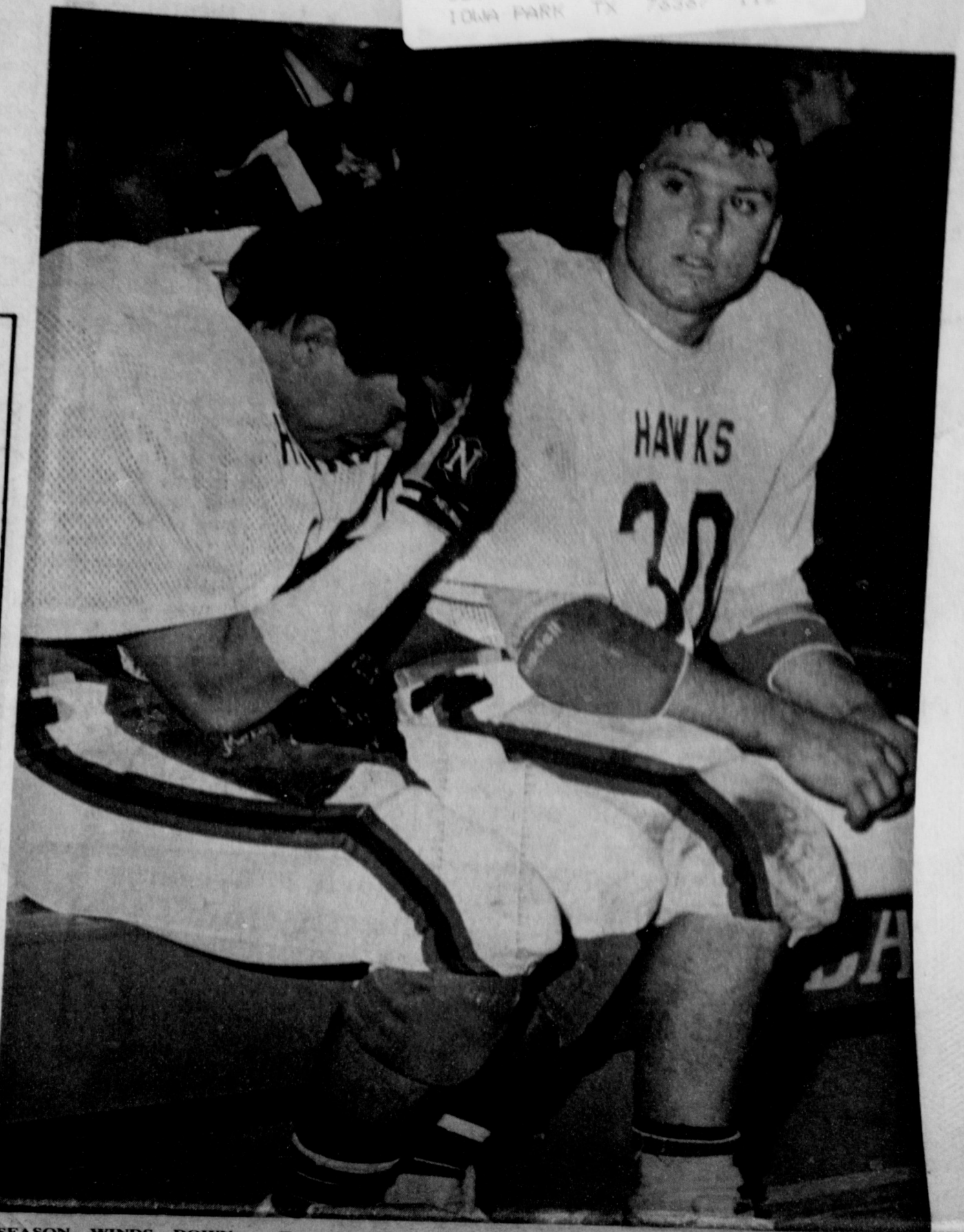
Karen Gauthier told police Friday morning someone had knocked out the front door glass at KG Studio overnight. The business is located at 211 S. Victoria.

Two male juveniles were taken into custody at 1:31 p.m. Sunday on a charge of shoplifting at Wal-Mart. They were released to their parents.

Two female drivers were arrested on outstanding warrants during the past week.

Mary Gullatt Dunn, 28, was taken into custody at 2:07 a.m. Thursday after it was learned she had four outstanding warrants from the Department of Public Safety, two for speeding and two failure to appear. She was released after signing a promise to pay the \$229 fine that evening.

Laverne Cook Samples, 43, was released after paying a \$66 fine when she was detained for outstanding local warrants for speeding and failure to appear.



SEASON WINDS DOWN - Two of Iowa Park's outstanding football players recognize their cause is over, as the finals seconds of Friday's area playoff game at Weatherford tick off the clock, and McGregor has the lead, 21-17. The players are Jeff Huff, left, the season's starting quarterback who missed seven games with a broken arm, and Jim Cummings, who wound up with 98 yards rushing for the game, and 1,700 for the season.

President of cemetery defends adopted rules

By BOB HAMILTON

A controversy has developed over the operation of Highland Cemetery, and Bill Gilmore, president of the association which oversees the facility, has expressed frustration with complaints he has received.

Primarily, his frustration appears to have developed because of a lack of turnout at meetings of the Highland Cemetery Association, where decisions are reached and approved by voting.

He said announcements are put in the paper, both as stories and in the past as advertisements, letters are mailed and numerous telephone calls made, but very few ever turn out.

"At my first meeting as president, there were only seven present. And the most we've ever had was 35," Gilmore said.

But during his three years as president (his third year ends in January), numerous changes in how the cemetery is operated have been made by those few who attend meetings.

Each of the changes, he emphasizes, were made to help maintain the grounds and continue to improve its appearance.

Among the changes are the locking of the entrance gates at night and during bad weather, asking plot owners to pay the cost of leveling sunken graves, prohibiting future use of rock and curbs, and a \$5 annual donation for voting rights at association meetings.

Another rule that was made, but amended, would have prohibited the decoration of plots with Christmas trees during the Yule season.

A decision was reached during a meeting earlier this year to lock the entrance gates at night, because of considerable vandalism on graves and around the area, Gilmore explained.

And the locking out of vehicles

during bad, or wet, weather was because vehicles driving on the thinly paved routes were ruining the surface.

He made a point about one instance last spring, where a vehicle had driven across a grave, apparently to keep from driving through a puddle.

A ruling was made by association members some four decades ago to stop the practice of installing curbs around plots, Gilmore quoted from the minutes.

But that ruling was overlooked after a few years, and is not being put back into practice. The reason, he said, was to cut the expense of mowing the cemetery's grounds.

Gilmore said the reason people began using gravel to cover graves in the first place was because only weeds grew in the cemetery for years.

The problem with using gravel is, he explained, that the plastic put

under it develops holes, and grass and weeds grow up through the holes and gravel. When that happens, it can't be mowed.

The two issues which prompted the most recent complaints was the practice of having to pay to vote, and the Christmas decorations ruling.

Gilmore explained that the \$5 asked for a donation entitled those people to make decisions on how the cemetery would be operated. He denied it was a "poll tax," as has been charged.

The rule concerning Christmas trees and decorations on plots was changed recently, to permit them being put up Dec. 1 or later, but they must be taken down by Jan. 15.

The association has a maintenance man hired who fills new graves, mows lawns and cuts weeds.

And Gilmore's wife works as sec-

Continued on page 4

News Briefs

Leader prints early for Thanksgiving

This issue of the leader is being printed Tuesday evening, for distribution Wednesday, because of Thursday being Thanksgiving holiday. It is a regular practice of the paper to publish early when holidays fall on the regular publication day.

Hopefully, the dates used by the paper and in the stories and in advertisements will not confuse readers. In some cases, events reported as taking place Wednesday are presumed to take place.

Schools to dismiss early for holidays

All Iowa Park school classes are to dismiss one hour early Wednesday, for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Supt. Glen Mitchell.

Classes are scheduled to resume at the regular time Monday morning.

Fingerprinting of children is offered

The Iowa Park Police Department will conduct a free identification card for all children of the area, Dec. 5 at Park Ford.

A card with each child's fingerprints and photograph will be turned over to parents, to be used in any type of emergency should a child be missing, explained Officer John Cross.

Does your subscription to the Leader expire this month?

Check the list on page 4.



Santa to be here Monday to help turn decorations

The street Christmas decorations will be turned on during a brief observance Monday night, according to project chairman Ruth Welch.

Seventeen new decorations will be added to the 10 purchased the past two years. All are financed through voluntary donations added to the monthly city utility bills.

Monday's program will begin at 7 p.m. in the median in front of State National Bank, where the power switch is located. Santa Claus will be the primary feature, but others joining him on the program will be the Hawk Band, Hawk Mascot and the Rockin' Rockettes. The program is expected to last about 30 minutes.

The additional decorations will complete Park Avenue, from Wall to the shopping center, as well as the 100 block of West Cash and some three blocks on the old highway, Mrs. Welch said.