

Woodville man burned in fire

By PAUL S. MARTINEZ
The Enterprise

The day an immigrant realized the American Dream ended badly for the man, who now lies in a hospital with third-degree burns over his upper body.

It was opening day Thursday, Oct. 18 for the Fajita Mexican Restaurant, the newest eatery in Tyler County, about a mile south of Woodville.

Ricardo Gonzalez, 56, had worked towards this day for eight years at a Woodville lumber mill.

The place was packed for lunch when Ricardo Gonzalez went to adjust a propane-powered cooker beneath the buffet, his son, Enrique Gonzalez, said Oct. 18.

What happened next is still under investigation, Woodville Fire Marshal Forrest Archer said, but there was some sort of explosion. Ricardo Gonzalez caught on fire, Archer said.

He was flown to the burn center at the University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital in Galveston.

Woodville Police Officer Phil Ryan was in the restaurant on his lunch break and sprang into action, Archer said.

The officer ended up with second-and-third-degree burns on his hands and was treated at Tyler County Hospital, Archer said.

Two other people were burned as well - a woman with minor burns who was treated at the scene and another man who was treated at Tyler County Hospital.

Enrique Gonzalez said he does not know of any plans to re-open the restaurant.

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services there — it wouldn't cost the city much to annex it. I don't understand why the city wouldn't want to annex it."

The city had already drawn up an ordinance setting a time and date for public hearings on the proposed annexation.

The annexation would have encompassed 476,935 acres of land. Public hearings had been scheduled for Nov. 19 and 26.

According to documents provided by the city, capital improvements to the area would include improving the streets in Ryall Acres within two and a half years.

"The city of Jasper finds and determines that this proposed service plan will not provide any fewer services and will not provide a lower level of service in the area proposed to be annexed than were in existence in the proposed area at the time immediately preceding the annexation process," the document states.

Barber admitted that the timing to annex the community might have come at the wrong time when other city street and drainage issues were on the same agenda.

Barber said he expects the issue to be brought up again in the future.

"Just because we table some issues doesn't mean we won't bring it up again," Barber said. "I think it will come up again — it might take a little bit more lobbying for it."

He admitted that with City Manager Alan Grindstaff out of town for the Tuesday, Oct. 9, meeting, it meant no person could speak on the city's behalf for the annexation of the Ryall Acres.

"As mayor I couldn't voice a position on it during the meeting but it would help to have someone there presenting the facts of the issues for the city," Barber said. "In hindsight, we probably should have left that off the agenda."

Barber said he didn't believe the city received a negative response to the issue but needed more of an explanation as to why the city was considering the action.

"There was no one saying 'no, we don't want it,'" Barber said. "That was just going to be the first step in doing it. We would have held public hearings for the residents to voice their opinions

on it."

Several residents attended the Oct. 9 meeting and signed up to express their concerns over the pending action.

Tim White spoke on behalf of the residents to the council.

"We're not sure what extra we are going to get from the city," White said. "We already have city water, sewer and electricity and we have to wonder if we have enough police to take care of the city and us."

"Are the roads going to be maintained and are we going to have sidewalks and if that is the case are we going to lose a five-foot easement on our property?" White said. "A lot of the people out there don't want to be annexed. We are kind of surprised that all of this happened."

White said Ryall Acres has three fire hydrants that service 71 homes and asked if the city has plans on increasing that number if the area was annexed.

"The only good thing we see is the leash law," White said. "We might have a little dog problem but other than that we don't see anything extra that we are going to get."



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Phil Wilson
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to his powers as governor and chief executive officer of the State of Texas, governor Rick Perry has issued the following proclamation:

Ordering a special election to be held throughout the State of Texas on the first Tuesday of November, 2007, that date being November 6th, for the purpose of voting on constitutional amendments proposed by the 80th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

The official copy of this proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk

GSD/gsd

Attachment

NOTICE TO ADOPT OR REJECT THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AS SUBMITTED BY THE 80TH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION, OF THE STATE OF TEXAS. (para adoptar o rechazar la enmiendas propuestas constitucional asi como fueron sometidas por la 80a Legislatura Sesion Regular, de la Estado de Texas.)

P.O. Box 12131 • Capitol Station • Austin, Texas 78711

PROCLAMATION

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, convened in January of 2007 in accordance with Article III, Section 5 of the TEXAS CONSTITUTION and Section 301.001 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, during that session, the legislature approved 16 joint resolutions by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of each House pursuant to Article XVII, Section 1 of the TEXAS CONSTITUTION; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of those resolutions and in accordance with the TEXAS CONSTITUTION, the Legislature has set the date of the election for voting on these 16 propositions to be November 6, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.003 of the Texas Election Code requires the election to be ordered by proclamation of the Governor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, do hereby order a special election to be held throughout the State of Texas on the FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER, the same being the SIXTH day of NOVEMBER, 2007; and,

NOTICE THEREOF IS HEREBY GIVEN to the COUNTY JUDGE of each county who is directed to cause said election to be held in the county on such date for the purpose of adopting or rejecting the constitutional amendments proposed by 16 joint resolutions, as submitted by the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, of the State of Texas.

Pursuant to Sections 274.001 and 274.002 of the Texas Election Code, the propositions for each joint resolution will appear as follows:

Proposition 1

"The constitutional amendment providing for the continuation of the constitutional appropriation for facilities and other capital items at Angelo State University on a change in the governance of the university."

Proposition 2

"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$500 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students and authorizing bond enhancement agreements with respect to general obligation bonds issued for that purpose."

Proposition 3

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation is limited to the lesser of the most recent market value of the residence homestead as determined by the appraisal entity or 110 percent, or a greater percentage, of the appraised value of the residence homestead for the preceding tax year."

Proposition 4

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of up to \$1 billion in bonds payable from the federal revenues of the state for maintenance, improvement, repair, and construction projects and for the purchase of needed equipment."

Proposition 5

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit the voters of a municipality having a population of less than 10,000 to authorize the governing body of the municipality to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under certain programs administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture under which the parties agree that all ad valorem taxes imposed on the owner's property may not be increased for the first five tax years after the tax year in which the agreement is entered into."

Proposition 6

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation one motor vehicle owned by an individual and used in the course of the owner's occupation or profession and also for personal activities of the owner."

Proposition 7

"The constitutional amendment to allow governmental entities to sell property acquired through eminent domain back to the previous owners at the price the entities paid to acquire the property."

Proposition 8

"The constitutional amendment to clarify certain provisions relating to the making of a home equity loan and use of home equity loan proceeds."

Proposition 9

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxation and authorizing a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled."

Proposition 10

"The constitutional amendment to abolish the constitutional authority or the office of inspector of hides and animals."

Proposition 11

"The constitutional amendment to require that a record vote be taken by a house of the legislature on final passage of any bill, other than certain local bills, of a resolution proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, or of any other nonceremonial resolution, and to provide for public access on the Internet to those record votes."

Proposition 12

"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds by the Texas Transportation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$5 billion to provide funding for highway improvement projects."

Proposition 13

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail to a person who violates certain court orders of conditions of release in a felony or family violence case."

Proposition 14

"The constitutional amendment permitting a justice or judge who reaches the mandatory retirement age while in office to serve the remainder of the justice's or judge's current term."

Proposition 15

"The constitutional amendment requiring the creation of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and authorizing the issuance of up to \$3 billion in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for research in Texas to find the causes of and cures for cancer."

Proposition 16

"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$250 million to provide assistance to economically distressed areas."

The Secretary of State shall take notice of this proclamation and shall mail a copy of this order immediately to every County Judge of this state and all appropriate writs will be issued and all proper proceedings will be followed to the end that said election may be held and its result proclaimed in accordance with law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,
I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my Office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 4th day of September, 2007.

Rick Perry,
Governor

Attested by:
Phil Wilson
Secretary of State