

# The McLean News



Bank Of Commerce Building  
Office No. 5, 201 N. Main St.

Published Weekly  
Thursday, February 8, 2001

1-806-779-2141  
1-888-849-6599

## Richardson Families Travel To Colorado For Kenny Richardson Award

The Roy Richardson family, Bobby Richardson family, and the Carey Richardson family will be traveling to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado Friday Feb. 9th 2001. While there, on Saturday Feb. 10, they will attend an awards banquet in which SSGT. Kenneth R. Richardson will be honored by having the 98th Flight Training Squadron Outstanding Enlisted personnel of the year award changed to be called "The Kenny Richardson Award." The inscription on the plaque

to read:  
98FTS Outstanding Enlisted Award Presented to the individual who inspires professional character and devotion to duty in the instruction of cadets. This annual award is given in the honor of SSGT. Kenneth R. Richardson  
Kenneth Richardson

died on October 25, 1999 as a result of injuries he received in a parachuting accident on October 24, 1999. Roy, Bobby, Carey, and Kenny's son Dalton Richardson have been invited to present this award to this years recipient SSGT. Pat Atkin. The Plaque,  
See Richardson, pg. 8



## REMINDERS

RUTH BROOKS will celebrate her 100th Birthday on Feb. 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Panhandle Country Club.

MCLEAN 4-H Horse Project will be held on Feb. 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ag Barn.

THE MCLEAN Beauty Pageant is on Feb. 24.

PIONEER STUDY Club Meeting will be held on Feb. 15 at 2:00 p.m. Ella Mae Beyna will be the hostess.

DON'T FORGET Valentines day on Wednesday February the 14th.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on February 28th.

PRES. LINCOLN'S Birthday is Monday the 12th of February.

4-H CLOTHING Project Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 13.

PRESIDENT'S DAY is Feb 19. Public Offices and some businesses will be closed

MCLEAN PTA MEETING 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria on Feb. 13. A "Worth the Wait" program will be presented.

THE AREA Mclean/Alanreed Museum Chili Dinner for February 6 has been changed to March 6.

FAMILY READING night every Monday night at 7:00 in the Elementary Jr. High library.

THE MCLEAN PTA is having a raffle for a South West Airline ticket (roundtrip) and a night for 2 in Amarillo, plus a meal. Tickets are available at Taylor Mart or with a PTA member. 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5. Funds raised are used for Senior Scholarships.

THE CITY HALL & Library will be closed Feb. 19.

COMET CLEANERS will do Free Pickup-Tues. and Free Delivery-Thurs. at Elizabeth's in McLean. Call 779-2445 for info.

LITTLE DRIBBLERS Tournament at Lefors Feb. 8-10. Times depend on Team.

CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held on Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

THE UNITED Methodist Women will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Feb 13.

CITY COUNCIL meeting on Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

BREAST SCREENING clinic will be held on Feb. 12 at the library. Call 359-4673 or 1-800-377-4673 for an appointment.

SPRING BREAK March 12-16.

## McLean Residents Feeling Hard Effects Of Winter With Latest Gas Prices

Gas prices doubled for most households in McLean for the month of January. Weather conditions added an extra burden with above average snowfall and ice storms hitting residents in the pocketbook.

Residents paid \$10.75 per MCF for the first month of the new year. The price of gas is expected to lower for February.

When the city Council meets on the 12th of this month a gas ordinance is expected to top the agenda. A collection policy is also to be discussed. At the current time, the city is

disconnecting only those who give no response after a certified letter has been sent according to the city secretary. This could change after the council meets. The fear is that the city would have to transfer funds from other places to pay the city's bill if residents don't pay their bill, causing a "Peter robbing Paul to get by" scenario.

At one city council meeting last year the council members discussed locking at a certain gas rate. The council voted not to take this route, fearing gas prices would lower. This would have left city

customers paying a higher bill for the one year at the locked in price. One year being the shortest locked in period that the council could have chosen.

"Please let it be understood," stated Mayor Charlie McClendon, "the gas problem is nationwide. The citizens of McLean are all feeling the burden that all the country is seeing. Energy prices are controlled by gas companies not cities in the U.S."

Panhandle Community Services in Pampa started with \$32,000.00 at the first of the month to help

with high utility bills. According to that office they are booked solid with applicants until the 15. This month the PCS is only paying half of the applicants bill in order to help more people. The office suggest if you need help to call back in the middle of the month to see if the state has allotted anymore funds for those in need. The phone number is 665-0081.

The Salvation Army has funds donated specifically for McLean. As of Tuesday, the funds were still available. The phone number is 665-7233.

## Museum Spring Opening Delayed To March 6

Due to increased utility costs, the Board of Directors of the McLean/Alanreed Area Museum and the Devil's Rope Museum have postponed the spring openings until March 6, 2001.

Opening Day will feature the annual "Stew, Chili, & Bean Lunch" a fund raising effort of the downtown area museum. Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. and continue until 1:30 p.m. at the

Western Heritage Community Room in the Devil's Rope Museum at 100 Kingsley Street.

Home made stew, chili, and beans will highlight the menu with banana pudding offered for dessert. Crackers, condiments, and drinks are included. Take-out containers will be provided. A Country Store "Table" will offer for sale home made pies, cakes, and fresh shelled pecans.

2001 is a special year in which the 75th birthday of Old Route 66 will be celebrated. The Route 66 Museum will feature commemorative displays and will welcome an estimated 1,500 Harley Davidson riders and other 66 enthusiasts traveling through McLean near the end of June.

The Devil's Rope Museum is celebrating its 10th birthday by hosting a Collector's Show with

reservations already made for collectors from eight states. The show dates are April 19, 20, and 21. We expect over 100 visitors in town for three days and nights. A tour company from the UK has sent dates for eighteen bus tours traveling during the summer months with the museum listed as a regular stop. The city of McLean should benefit greatly from these

See Museum, pg. 9

**McLean Birthdays Anniversaries**

**February 8** - Doris Guyton, Tom Trostle, Doris Stillwell, Vera Glenn, Lanasa Sutton, Tamme Pike.  
**February 9** - Deana Sparks.  
**February 10** -  
**February 11** - Sandy Bowen, Fleta Hill, Peggy Adams, Robert and Peggy Leeder (A).  
**February 12** - Charlie Carter, Danna Hess, Jim Barker, Doyle Lee, Anna Jean Lamb, Teresa Cheatham, Zane Richardson, Quenton Newton.  
**February 13** - Burl Stubbs, Ada Simmons.  
**February 14** - John Glass, Josh Acuna, Shaley Steel, Andy Eck, JoAnn West.

**McLean School Menu**

**Monday Breakfast:** Cinnamon toast, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. **Lunch:** Hot dogs, chili, cheese, tator tots, veggie sticks, fruit, milk.  
**Tuesday Breakfast:** French toast, sausage, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, milk. **Lunch:** Nachos, meat, cheese, pinto beans, salad, fruit, milk.  
**Wednesday Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. **Lunch:** Baked potatoes, ham and cheese, blackeyed peas, bread sticks, fruit, milk.  
**Thursday Breakfast:** Hot or Cold Cereal, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. **Lunch:** Steak fingers, french fries, gravy, green beans, texas toast, fruit, milk.

**Friday Breakfast:** Cinnamon rolls, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. **Lunch:** Burritos, chili, cheese, pinto beans, salad, fruit, milk.

**Richardson**

which is a 30 year plaque, will remain on permanent display at the 98th Flight Training Squadron Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**WANTED EVERYONE FOR NONDENOMINATIONAL COWBOY CHURCH**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A COWBOY TO ATTEND**  
**WHAT:** A non-denominational Cowboy Ministry Service Praise & Worship Service Special Music  
**WHERE:** Red River Steakhouse, McLean, Texas  
 Corner of West Bound Route 66 & Pampa Highway 275  
**When:** Every Sunday At 6:00 p.m.  
**Sponsored By:** Red River cowboy Ministries  
 For more information call: Bill or Jerry Billingsley at 806-779-2456 or Mike or Leslie Darsey 806-779-2956



*Sweet Sixteen*  
 Shaley Rose Steel  
 Love, Your Family

*Dear Family Member.*

Dan, Sasha, Taylor Janelle and Parker Daniel Fish of Alanreed are happy to announce a new addition to their family. Ashley Celeste Fish was legally adopted by Dan and Sasha on Monday, January 29, 2001 in Pampa, Texas. Ashley's new kin folks are grandparents Bob and Jeanette Fish of Alanreed and Bill and Judy Comer of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Uncle Joe Fish, Alanreed, Uncle Larry and Aunt Lynn Swanson, McLean; Aunt Marjorie Fish, McLean; & Aunt Juanita Fish, McLean. Cousins are Tony and Amy Polito, Clarendon; Ryan Swanson, McLean; Jay Dee, Becky, Jessie & Travis Fish, McLean; Don & Evelyn Sanders, McLean & Tuffy Sanders, McLean and numerous cousins in Amarillo, Houston, and Dallas.

Also living in Amarillo are her sister and brother in law, Bill and Jennifer Terry, nephew Calvin Armbrister lives in Liberal, Kansas. Ashley has lived with Dan and Sasha Fish since her mother, Dixie Danelle Warner Comer passed away in July 1999. The family is planning a backyard party in the spring to welcome Ashley. She is 16 years old.

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 New Location - Corner of 4th & Gray Street 779-2098  
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 New Owners: Stacey & Gene Smart and Carolyn Henson & Floral Designer: Debbie Acuna

**Family Healthcare Clinic Of McLean**

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 Phone: (806) 779-2030  
 A "Hometown Clinic" offering the Highest Quality of Healthcare for You and your Family!

**Clinic Hours:**  
 Monday - Wednesday - Friday  
 8:00 - 1:00 & 2:00 - 5:00

Jerry Wilson P.A.



June Suggs, Receptionist

**Dr. Craig Shaffer**  
**Medical Director**

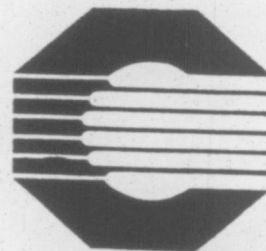
The Clinic Will Be Closed December 5 through December 14

**The Future of McLean**

**Lies In Our Young People!**



Miranda McMordie  
 Daughter of John and Boxie McMordie



MEMBER F.D.I.C.



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# McLean Tigers Defeat Hedley, Looking Towards The Playoffs

In a hard fought battle that went into overtime, the McLean Tigers defeated the Hedley Owls on January 30 with a score of 61-54. Shane Estes led the pack with 18 points. Brad Sawyer added 14. Randy Floyd scored 6. David Swafford and Gabe Vega both earned 4. Terrell Hembree added 12. The Lady Tigers were defeated 34-71. Sarai Sawyer topped the board with 12 points. Cesily Cedra added 9. Nikki Hefley, Shaley Steel, and Randi Riley earned 3 points each. Danielle Dampier added 1. The teams hosted White Deer on February 2. The Tigers were defeated 29-75. Shane Estes earned 8. Brad Sawyer followed with 7. Terrell Hembree added 6. Josh Seymour and Nathan Roberts both scored 2. Randy Floyd scored 1. Gabe Vega suffered a knee injury during the game with a tear to his ACL. The Tigers stand at 5-2.

Jr. High Basketball The Jr. High Basketball teams traveled to Hedley to participate in a tournament on February 1st and 3rd. The Cubs were defeated by Hedley in a close match with a score of 40-43. Zane Richardson lead the team with 17 points. Terrence Fite earned 14. Tyler Hanes added 5 and Lucas Seymour added 4. In the second game the Cubs were defeated by Samnorwood, 26-42. Terrence Fite put in 14. Tyler Hanes scored 9 and Zane Richardson added 3. The third game was close and brought victory for the Cubs against Silverton, 37-35. Zane Richardson lead the pack with 18 points. Terrence Fite earned 13. Andy Ritchie added 4. Tyler Hanes scored 2 and Lucas Seymour added 1. Samnorwood also defeated the Cubettes 8-32. Tabitha Newton put in 6 points. Erin Bailey and Brooke Seymour each earned 1. The second game

brought defeat again for the Cubettes against Silverton with a score of 16-31. Tabitha Newton had 13 points and Ashley McClendon sunk 3 points.




GO TIGERS

## Museum

visitors. The McLean/Alanreed Area Museum is making plans to spearhead the local 2002 activities of the 100th birthday of Gray County, McLean, The Methodist Church, and other entities. Materials are being gathered now for displays on the Rowe Ranch and Alfred Rowe, the founder of McLean. All community organizations will be contacted to help and participate in these efforts. The museums appreciate the support and contributions to their operation and urge the public to join in the activities being planned, and don't forget the opening day lunch.



McLean Elementary-Jr. High Students of the Week January 29-February 2: Kindergarten Candace Shackelford; 1st Grade Ashley Russell; 2nd Grade Staci Smith; 3rd Grade Dakota Greenwood; 4th Grade Tammy Syfritt; 5th Grade Lacey Wallis; 6th Grade Courtney Lamb; 7th Grade Russell Anglin; 8th Grade Allison Hill



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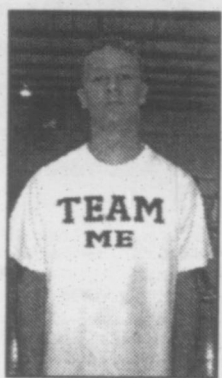
Neal Odom 806-779-2405  
email = MFY@ranches.org

# McLean & Lady Tigers

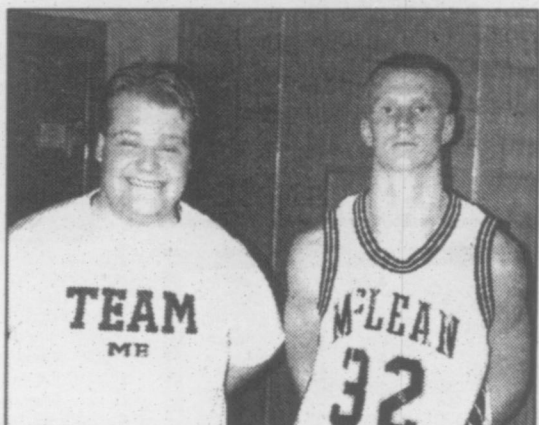
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Mary Dwyer



Dennis Rio



Chase Eddleman

Chris Sparling



### Mom's Circle Holds First Meeting of '01

Mom's Circle held its first meeting of the year on January 31.

Luann Mantooth presented a program on attitude based on a book by Christian author and speaker Patsy Clairmont.

The mom's enjoyed a Mexican lunch of taco soup, salad, chips, salsa, and pineapple upside-down cake for lunch.

Mom's Circle is open for any mom who needs some time for adult conversation and to get out of the mom mode for just a little while. Childcare is provided during the circle.

Those mom's present at January's meeting were Judith Ingle, Heidi Gamble, Luann Mantooth, Sandy McLain, Stephanie

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Ellis, Diana Roosa, Tanya Walker, Amy Herring, and Shawn Bybee. Beverly Odom and Judy

Lee provided the nursery. The next Mom's Circle will be held on February 28 at Trinity Baptist Church at 11 a.m.



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#### Good Neighbor Pharmacy Topics

By Don Biggers, RPh  
What The Big Drug Companies Don't Want You To Know.

Starting back to school can be stressful, the change in daily schedules - can cause your immune system to weaken. This is why it is so important to maintain your regular supplementation regimen with a good multivitamin complete with antioxidants such as Vitamins C, E, Beta Carotene, Selenium and Zinc. You may want to try our NutriGenesis Formula 2000. Echinacea and Zinc Lozenges.

Both of these products are natural immune system boosters and may further protect your immune system from all the different pollutants we are exposed to daily. Echinacea is a natural herb best taken whenever you feel a scratchy throat coming on. Zinc Lozenges can help out the duration of colds by and average of 3 days. Please follow all label directions. For more information about natural herbal products talk to your hometown pharmacist. Thanks Don Your Shamrock Herbal Pharmacist

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before coming to Texas to stay in 1958.

They pastored in Amarillo for six years before accepting the Assembly of God Church in McLean. They pastored there from October of 1964 until January of 1990. During that time they raised their four boys, Leland, Steven, Roger, and Darrell and were active in the community. Z.A. was a member of the Ministerial Alliance and Lois has always been an active volunteer at the nursing home, offering her services at birthday parties and sing-a-longs, as well as just visiting the residents.

After retiring from pastoring in McLean, Lois and Z.A. worked at the Assembly of God District Youth Camp in Roaring Springs from 1990-91. They then held revivals in the surrounding communities until December of 1994 when they took the pastorate of the Shamrock Assembly of God until January of 1999. Since then, they have held the interim pastorate in Memphis for 7 months and in Stinnett for 10 months as well as filling in at other area churches.

The Myers are once again living in McLean and have enjoyed the addition of thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild to the family. Z.A. still fills in for area churches and Lois still volunteers at the nursing home here in McLean.

### Myers Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Lois and Z.A. Myers will be honored on February 17, 2001 in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in Pampa, Texas. Hosting the event will be their children and grandchildren.

The couple married in Santa Ana, California on February 15, 1951. Z.A., a native Texan from Clarendon, met Lois Franki when he was stationed in California while serving in the Marines. They became acquainted at church and soon both knew that the girl from the big city and the boy from the farm were meant for each other.

Soon after their marriage, Lois and Z.A. served on the staff on Colonial Tabernacle Church in Long Beach, California, and so began their journey into full time ministry. They took their first pastorate in Oregon before going into full time evangelistic work. They held revivals in California, Texas, Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Virginia, and Ohio. After that, they pastored in Gardena, California from 1954-56

### Pioneer Study Club News

The Pioneer Study Club met Thursday Feb. 1st at the McLean Elementary School Library with Mary Dwyer as hostess. Roll call was answered with the naming of a favorite President and why.

Delicious cookies and hot drinks were served to members and guest. Those present were members Jerry Corbin, Mary Dwyer, Margaret Grogan, Mickey Jackson, Ruth Magee, Sherry Martindale, Zelda McClellan, Betty Morgan, Mary Powell, Lynn Reeves, Ella Mae Reyna, Ruth Trew, Nama Webb, Mary Emma Woods, and guest, Sandy McLain, Jayden Jordan, and Babe Brown.

Freda Holland, guest speaker, enlightened all with information on the accelerated reading program offered by the school.

The accelerated reading program was developed by Judith Pauley. Ms. Pauley created the accelerated reading program when she was looking for a way to involve her own children to read. Ms. Pauley established the "Readers Bill of Rights" along with her program.

The Star program shows reading range of each student's level of

reading. The reading program takes the fear, humiliation, and embarrassment out of reading for students. The student and teacher set goals together. Points are based on quantity, quality, and reading level.

The accelerated reading program shows 101 ways to motivate readers if students don't enjoy reading. It doesn't make lovers of reading but can make one grow in reading level. There are 35-40 books in an accelerated book set and cost runs from \$300-\$450 depending on book subjects. Students are given comprehensive testing before moving to another level of reading.

The McLean Elementary School Library is open on Monday evenings for a Family Reading night. Also, the school has a community reader day where local residents, out of town guest, share a book with students.

Volunteers are welcome to come help with reading to students.

Meeting adjourned with this thought: "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Next meeting will be February 15th with Ella Mae Reyna as hostess.

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Fri. Sat. Sun. 3:12 7:30, 10:20  
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**Save The Last Dance**  
Rated PG  
Fri. Sat. Sun 3:40, 7:40 & 10:35  
Mon thru Thurs. 4:45 & 7:50 p.m.

**Saving Silverman**  
Rated PG 13  
Fri. Sat & Sun 4:00, 8:00 & 10:45\*  
Mon thru Thurs 5:00 & 8:05

\*Friday & Saturday Only  
Admission  
\$3.50 per person - Matinee Shows starting before 5:00  
Children 3-11 or Senior citizens \$3.50 Adults \$5.00

**Coming soon: Recess & Valentine**  
Under new management with Daily matinees starting at 5:00 pm

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Surprise your Sweetie with Valentine Candy from County Corner  
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Deadline for classifieds: Noon Tuesday, All others Monday, 5:00 p.m.  
Payment is required at the time you place your ad unless you have an established 30 day account



Errors: Check your ad on first publication. Not responsible for errors not called to your attention after first publication.  
The Groom-McLean News does not vouch for the legitimacy of any ad, job or money making opportunity. We suggest that you thoroughly check out any offer before making a commitment.

**JENNY'S ALTERATIONS**  
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Treat e-mail offers the same as unsolicited telemarketing sales calls. Don't believe promises from strangers. A public service message from The Groom/McLean News.

**WATCH FOR**  
students walking or riding their bicycles to and from school.

**CHEAP CREDIT.**  
Beware of credit ads promising low interest rates. For the real cost of your credit, ask for the annual percentage rate (APR). A public service message from The Groom News and the Federal Trade Commission.

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**IF YOU HAVE** printing, call The News at 248-7333 or 779-2141.

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TexSCAN Week of February 4, 2001

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**Church of Christ 4th & Clarendon**  
779-2548  
Sunday Bible School 10 am  
Worship 10:40 am & 6 pm  
Wed. Bible Class 7:30

**First Assembly of God 4th & Main**  
Pastor Quenton Newton 779-2221  
Sunday School - All Ages 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Sunday Night & Youth Services 7 pm  
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

**First Baptist Church 206 E. 1st**  
Brian Quisenberry, Pastor 779-2175  
Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11 am & 7 pm  
(Youth) & Wed. Bible Study, Prayer Meeting 7 pm

**United Methodist Church 2nd & Gray**  
Pastor Thacker Haynes 779-2049 & 779-2337  
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 10:50 am & 6 pm  
Sun. Sr. High Youth Alpha Chi 5 pm  
Wed. Choir 7:00 pm

**Heald United Methodist Church**  
Kellerville Road  
Sunday 9:15

**Trinity Baptist Church 603 Commerce**  
James Mantooh 779-3207  
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am  
Sunday Evening Worship 7 pm  
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm

# SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIALS

**Nabisco Premium Saltine Crackers**  
2/\$3

**Nabisco Oreos**  
2/\$5

**Coke Dr. Pepper Sprite**  
3 Liters  
2/\$3.00

**Coke Dr. Pepper Sprite**  
6 Pack Cans  
\$1.79

**Coke Dr. Pepper Sprite**  
1/2 Liter  
2/\$5.00

 100 OZ. LIQUID, 84 OZ. REG. OR W/BLEACH POWDER <b>Fab Ultra</b> YOUR CHOICE <b>3<sup>99</sup></b>	 ASSORTED <b>Wesson Oil</b> 48 OZ. <b>1<sup>69</sup></b>	 ORIGINAL CRUNCH BERRY OR PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH <b>Capt'n Crunch</b> 15-16 OZ. <b>1<sup>99</sup></b>	 MARUCHAN ASSORTED <b>Ramen Noodles</b> 3 OZ. <b>8 \$1<sup>1</sup></b> FOR	 HEINZ <b>Squeeze Ketchup</b> 24 OZ. <b>99¢</b>
 ASSORTED <b>Doritos</b> REG. 5.25 <b>2 \$5</b> FOR	 ASSORTED <b>Lays' or Wavy Lay's</b> REG. 5.25 <b>2 \$5</b> FOR	 SHIRAZINE WHITE PREMIUM <b>Bath Tissue</b> 4 ROLL <b>79¢</b>	 BEEF, CHICKEN OR LIVER <b>Bolo Dog Food</b> 13.3 OZ. <b>4 \$1</b> FOR	 SHIRAZINE <b>Pinto Beans</b> 4 LB. <b>1<sup>29</sup></b>
SHIRAZINE BOUTIQUE OR WHITE <b>Facial Tissue</b> SMART BUY 36-176 CT. <b>99¢</b> SHIRAZINE TALL <b>Kitchen Bags</b> SMART BUY 30 CT. <b>1<sup>99</sup></b> SHIRAZINE ASSORTED/COMBINATION 2 PLY <b>Paper Towels</b> SMART BUY ROLL <b>59¢</b> SHIRAZINE STANDARD <b>Aluminum Foil</b> SMART BUY 25-90 FT. <b>69¢</b> REG. OR ANTI BACTERIAL <b>Palmolive Ultra</b> SMART BUY 25-28 OZ. <b>1<sup>99</sup></b>	FRISKIES ASSORTED <b>Cat Food</b> SMART BUY 3 5.5 OZ. <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b> QUICK OR OLD FASHIONED <b>3-Minute Oats</b> SMART BUY 43 OZ. <b>1<sup>99</sup></b>	GERHARDT REJULAN UR JALAPENO <b>Refried Beans</b> SMART BUY 2 11 OZ. <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b> LIQUID SWEETENER <b>Sweet 10</b> SMART BUY 4 OZ. <b>2<sup>99</sup></b>	CLASSICO ASSORTED <b>Spaghetti Sauce</b> SMART BUY 16-28 OZ. <b>2<sup>99</sup></b> GERHARDT <b>Jumbo Tamales</b> SMART BUY 28 OZ. <b>1<sup>79</sup></b> LIBBY'S <b>Potted Meat</b> SMART BUY 3 3 OZ. <b>89¢</b> SHIRAZINE ASSORTED <b>Syrup</b> SMART BUY 24 OZ. <b>1<sup>29</sup></b>	

**RED OR THOMPSON SEEDLESS Grapes**  
**99¢ LB.**

**US #1 RUSSET Potatoes**  
10 LB. BAG  
**2 \$3<sup>00</sup>** FOR

DOLE REG. OR FAT FREE COMPLETE <b>Caesar Salad</b> 10 OZ. <b>1<sup>99</sup></b>	BRANDY SIZE <b>Grapefruit</b> 4 FOR <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>
BROCCOLI <b>Crowns</b> LB. <b>99¢</b>	CHILEAN <b>Peaches</b> LB. <b>1<sup>29</sup></b>
DEL MONTE GOLDEN <b>Pineapples</b> EA. <b>2<sup>99</sup></b>	FRESH HONEYDEW <b>Melons</b> LB. <b>69¢</b>
JEWEL GREEN <b>Limes</b> 5 FOR <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	LARGE DINO WHITE <b>Cauliflower</b> EA. <b>1<sup>49</sup></b>
NAVEL <b>Oranges</b> LB. <b>59¢</b>	SWEET <b>Strawberries</b> LB. <b>2<sup>99</sup></b>
TROPICAL <b>Mangos</b> EA. <b>89¢</b>	

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PLAIN STRAWBERRY OR CHOCOLATE  
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**Motrin** SMART BUY 10 CT. **2<sup>99</sup>**

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**99¢ LB.**

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FRESH  
**Pork Steak** LB. **1<sup>29</sup>**

MEATY PORK SHOULDER  
**Country Style Ribs** LB. **1<sup>39</sup>**

PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF  
**Arm Roast** LB. **1<sup>99</sup>**

**SUPER BOWL SNACK SPECIALS**

PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF  
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PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF  
**Arm Charcoal Steak** LB. **2<sup>19</sup>**

BONELESS BEEF  
**Stew Meat** LB. **2<sup>49</sup>**

EL HORNADO  
**Flour Tortillas** 10 CT. **89¢**

FARM RAISED RAW  
**Catfish Nuggets** LB. **1<sup>49</sup>**

CHEF'S CHOICE  
**Stir Fry Dinners** 24 OZ. **4<sup>99</sup>**

WRIGHT'S  
**Sliced Bacon** 12 OZ. **1<sup>59</sup>**

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# GROOM S & H GROCERY



# The Groom News

50¢

Volume 74 Number 35

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, February 8, 2001

## Big Bills Come As No Surprise To Groom Gas Customers

Groom natural gas customers joined the ranks of those getting big bills this month. Consumers in the area found their bills approximately two times higher than this time last year.

Last year at this time, the MCF (thousand cubic feet) was an average of \$4.30, with the increases that took place in December, the current bill, which is for Dec. 11 - Jan. 15, reflect a price of roughly \$9.00 per thousand. Usage is also up from this time last year due to the extreme weather conditions. Unfortunately, high gas

prices and bad weather have picked the same time to rear their ugly heads.

The "Why" of the increased prices has everyone scratching their heads. According to experts, gas prices have been low for so long that well production and exploration have been on the decline. Natural gas was not stockpiled for future use and so with the increased consumption due to the extreme weather, supply and demand dictated the huge jump in price.

Groom's local company, West Texas Gas purchases much of

its gas from Enron. WTG owns a couple of small wells, but actually produces very little of its own gas.

"We have to buy about 95% of our gas" stated Groom Branch manager Donald Bland.

Officials at West Texas Gas know and understand what a hardship this is on all.

"We understand what a blow this is to young families, people on fixed incomes and just about everyone in between," stated West Texas Gas's Groom Branch Manager, Donald Bland. "We will do everything we can to help our customers get

through this. We are more than willing to help work this difficult period out."

What can a customer do if they just cannot pay their entire bill?

Office Manager Judy Miller commented, "The first and most important thing to do is to try to pay as much of the bill as possible and come in and talk to us about the balance. Paying as much as you can will keep you from having a huge bill on into the spring and summer, because although gas prices are already dropping, no one can

See Gas Bill pg 3



Everyone is getting into reading their meter! Most of the time it's not a faulty meter, just high GAS prices that have made area natural gas bills so high.

## Tigerettes To Face Nazareth In Play-offs

With the Tigerettes loss of the district title to Hedley, Groom will enter the Bi-District play-offs next week by facing off with Nazareth. The game will be played on February 13 at Canyon High School at 6:30 p.m.

The Ettes will be finishing their regular season as The News goes to press on Tuesday night by playing McLean, also a very strong rival.

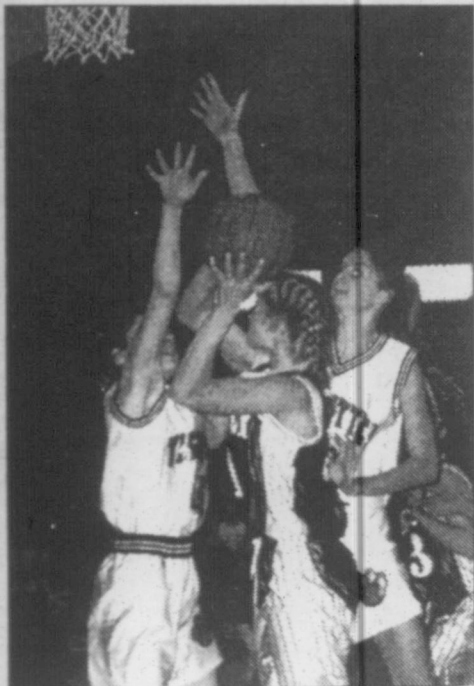
They played Lefors last

Tuesday night and easily outdistanced the Lady Pirates 74-12.

Nichole Barnett was high point with 16. Krisanne Davis and Jill Britten each added another 12. Candace Bohr scored 11, Amanda Conrad 9, Cassie Ashford and Brin Burgin 6 each and Amanda Martin 2.

On Friday, the Ettes played Hedley. It was a very difficult battle and

See Ettes, pg 3



Amanda Conrad and Krisanne Davis successfully block this shot.



## Bohr Celebrated 50th Anniversary With Bank

It was just an average day for Marie Bohr when she received word that, then, Bank President Cecil Culver wanted to see her. Barely out of high school for a year, Marie was content to stay home with her mother and help out around the house. In those days, girls did not always attend college and most did not get out and hunt a career.

Little did she know that from that one interview, she would embark on a lifelong career that finds her 50 years later as one of the most esteemed members of the staff at the State National Bank.

"We didn't even have a phone on the farm," she said. "Mr. Culver sent word that he wanted to talk to me about working at the bank."

And so in 1951, Marie Bohr began her half century (and counting) trek through the world of finance.

"Things have changed tremendously since those early days," she said.

Back in 1951, every transaction was recorded by hand through a posting machine. Every check, deposit and loan payment was given the personal touch. According to Bohr, it was easier to watch for

## COMMUNITY CALENDER

**GROOM SCHOOL** will offer vaccines against childhood diseases on Feb. 16 at 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**GROOM ETTES** will play Nazareth for the Bi-District Championship on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon High School Gym.

**IMMUNIZATIONS** will be available at Groom ISD on Feb. 16 from 9:00 to 11:00.

**THE NATIONAL** Honor Society will induct new members on February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

**GROOM Ambulance** Service needs community minded people to take E.M.T. classes. Classes begin on Feb. 18. Sat. and Sun. classes. Call 248-7963 for more information.

**INTERESTED IN** Education or Civic Responsibilities? Sign up for a place on the ballot for Groom ISD School Board or Groom City Council, beginning on Feb. 19, at the School Business Office or City Hall.



**GROOM RELAYS** are scheduled for March 16.

**ATTENTION!** The Groom ISD Board Meeting has been moved to Thursday Feb. 15 at the usual time and place due to the High School Girls play-off game being held on the regular meeting night.

**A TEACHER'S** workday has been scheduled for Feb. 12. No classes will be held on that day.

**SPRING BREAK** is scheduled for March 12-16 for Groom ISD.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is Feb. 28th.

**TUESDAY PRICES AT ATTEBURY GRAIN CO.**  
Wheat-\$2.53  
Milo-\$3.24  
Corn-\$3.60  
Soybeans-\$3.79  
No Precipitation Reported In Area

# The Groom News

USPS 230-380

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## West Texas A & M University Announces Honor Roll

More than 1,200 West Texas A&M University students were named to the honors list for the fall 2000 semester. Of that total, 317 were named to the President's List and 910 earned mention on the Dean's List.

Students earning President's List recognition achieved a semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.85 (of a possible 4.0) or better with a minimum

class load of 12 undergraduate hours.

Students on the Dean's List achieved GPAs between 3.25 and 3.85 with a minimum of 12 undergraduate hours.

Groom area students are: Tamara L. Ashford, Junior, General Business; Dustin G. Babcock, Freshman, Agri/Plant Soil Environment Sciences; April G. Burton, Junior, Psychology; Wyatt J. Weinheimer, Junior, Mathematics.

## Local Happenings

Kade Brown competed in the Fort Worth Stock Show, recently, and placed 6th with his heifer.

Visiting in Groom over the weekend were April Burton of Canyon, and Melody, Lauren, Kaytlynn, and Britton Simpson of Amarillo.

**ILL OR RECOVERING**  
 Father Ray Crossier, Evelyn Ollinger, Bud Babcock, and Mary Spencer

**Groom Birthdays Anniversaries**  
 February 8 - Mrs. C.F. Hermesmeyer, Dewey Cave, Heather Patterson, Bill & Jo Ann Musser (A).  
 February 9 - Jolee Burger Moore, Connie McMahan.  
 February 10 - Mildred Burgin McWhirter.  
 February 11 - Jodi Homen, Justin Homen, Troy Ritter, Nathan Ruthardt.  
 February 12 - Skeet Brown.  
 February 13 - Jessica Odell Baggerman, Karen and Scott Fields (A).  
 February 14 - Lynn Y. Britten, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Weinheimer (A).

Mrs. Angela (Conrad) Amphay was feted with a baby shower hosted by her sisters, Sandie, Karen, and Amanda Conrad, Rebecca Vincent, and her cousin Lana Brown over the weekend. She is expecting her first child soon.

## Sheriff's Report

There were 6 persons booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of January 6 through February 4. Currently there are 11 persons incarcerated in this jail and 12 additional prisoners being held in other jurisdictions.

Arrests made this week include:

Julie Monden, age 20 of Panhandle- Retaliation and Theft.

James Galleher, 33, of Pampa- DPS traffic warrants.

Jose E. Rocha, 36, Amarillo- Driving while intoxicated 3rd offense.

Christoph Stevenson, 30, Pontiac, MI.- Possession of Marijuana more than 50 pounds but less than 2000 pounds.

Allen B. Frame, 46, Wheeler, Tx. - Driving while intoxicated, 3rd offense, Driving while license suspended and interference with Railroad.

fraudulent signatures and there were not nearly as many insufficient checks.

"People operated more with cash and used their checking accounts for important transactions," she commented. "Today, more checks are written. Plus technology is so much faster, that transactions are processed much faster."

Bohr was asked if there ever was a time when she worried about the stability of the bank or her job.

"No, I think the Bank has always been in pretty stable shape," she said.

"I never dreamed that when I walked in for that interview, that I would still be here 50 years later! This is home to me and I love my job. I plan on staying as long as my health holds and they want me!"

Her co-workers all agree that they just couldn't do without Marie.

"You couldn't ask for a more loyal and dedicated employee," stated Bank President Bobby Babcock. "She is just wonderful to work with." She is just the sweetest, hardworking employee we have," stated Vice President Lana Brown. "She does so much around here that I just don't know what we would do without her. She never misses work for any reason. We just couldn't have a nicer,

more knowledgeable person to represent us."

Marie Bohr honored with a 50th Anniversary party at the Bank last week. She was presented with a dozen beautiful roses and a lovely cake. Friends, relatives, customers, and co-workers all attended to wish her congratulations on her accomplishment and good luck for many years to come.

It's the "stick with it" spirit like that of Marie Bohr's that makes The State National Bank and Groom a wonderful place to call home!

## Groom School Menu February 12-16

**Monday-No School**  
**Tuesday Breakfast:** Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, Juice, milk.  
**Lunch:** Tiger Baskets, french fries, fruit cocktail, texas toast, milk.

**Wednesday Breakfast:** Breakfast burritos, hash brown potatoes, juice, milk.  
**Lunch:** Chili cheese dogs, tator tots, pickle spears, pineapple, milk.

**Thursday Breakfast:** Biscuits, gravy, bacon, juice, milk.  
**Lunch:** Charbroiled chopped steak, scalloped potatoes, blackeyed peas, hot rolls, cherry crisp, milk.

**Friday Breakfast:** Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk.  
**Lunch:** Stuffed backed potatoes, chopped broccoli with cheese sauce, hot sliced bread, sherbert, milk.

## COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Yep, this is quite a productive ranch ... it produces more headaches than any ranch for a thousand miles!"

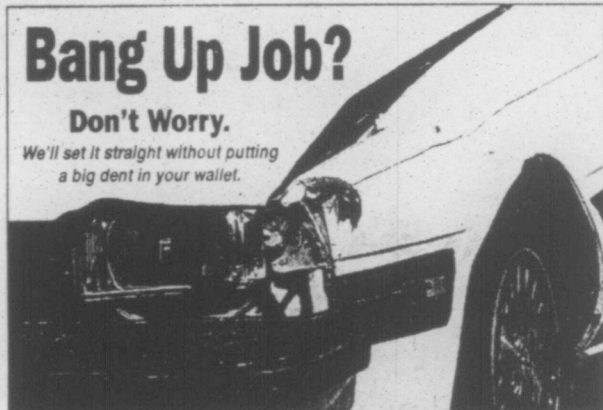
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### Amarillo College Announces Honor Roll

Jessica J. Stapp, a Dental Hygiene student from Groom has been named to the Fall 2000 Honor Roll at Amarillo College with a 4.0 grade point average.

Allison A. Eatmon, a Radio-TV Broadcast Production student, also earned a place on the Dean's List. Those recognized must be enrolled in 12 or more hours of academic courses at Amarillo College and earn a grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

More than 8300 students enrolled in credit classes at Amarillo College last Fall. An additional 11,000-plus individuals registered for continuing education courses during the same period.

Since 1929, Amarillo College has remained dedicated to providing educational cultural and community services and resources to enhance the quality of life for those it serves. Today, the College offers more than 150 different degree and certificate programs.

### Students Named To Baylor University Honor Roll

For the 2000 fall session at Baylor University, 2,011 students were named to the Dean's Academic Honor List.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Carrie Joe Zumstein was named to the Dean's List

## City To Host "Open Meeting" Workshop for Area's Benefit

The City of Groom has tentatively scheduled a workshop on Thursday, March 8, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Center to hear Mr. Marcus W. Norris, Amarillo City Attorney, present a program on the Texas Open Meetings Act. "This is only an overview. It does not include all rules, details, exceptions, etc. Like all other laws, it is subject to change by the legislature, the courts and the Attorney General

on almost any day," according to Norris. The presentation will only last about 30 to 40 minutes. Mr. Norris will discuss topic pertaining to notice requirements, limitations on discussions, open and closed meetings, recording requirements, and penalties for violations of the act.

Mary Sue Lyles heard Mr. Norris speak at such a conference. She stated, "Mr. Norris, even though he is an attorney, presents this program in

terms that each one of us can understand and in a concise, interesting manner. Everyone who is currently in office or on an appointed board or anyone who may want to seek a public office will benefit from Mr. Norris' presentation."

This program will be held before the regular monthly City Council meeting. Anyone who would like to attend the City Council meeting will be welcome.

### ETTES

the girls lost by a narrow margin, 43-55.

Candace lead the scoring with 16 points. Amanda Conrad earned another 15 for Groom. Krisanne Davis contributed 10 and Lauren Crowell scored 2 more points.

Preparing to play the Bi-District game next week will see if the Ettes can put the stigma of Nazareth behind them.

"You could almost say that most teams give up

20 points on the tip-off just because it is Nazareth!" stated Coach Chris Sumrall. "We

have to forget and just do our jobs. We will need to shut down their scoring. Our defense can do that. We don't plan to change much just keep doing our best. Our defense will be the key."

Everyone is invited to attend the exciting play-off game at Canyon High School at 6:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

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### GAS BILL

predict what the rest of the winter will be like. And gas prices could go back up for all we know."

Another way that those on a fixed income can help to keep from having these big surprises at the end of the month is to sign up for the "Average billing plan" that is offered by our local gas company.

The Average Billing Plan will compute your average bill from a 12 month cycle beginning in July. (One can get on the program now but only 5 months will be figured including this current bill, which is unusually large, and they will still have to pay this months bill.) Each July, the last 12 months bills are re-averaged and a new monthly fee is set. If a person has used more gas than expected, they must pay the difference. If they use less, the Gas Company adjusts the bill accordingly.

Katy Talley, a local senior citizen, has been on the plan for about 4 years.

"I really like it," she said. "I know what my bills are going to be every month. Every July they re-figure it and adjust my payment. I think it is a wonderful plan."

Outside agencies like Panhandle Community Services are out of money to help people who qualify with their utility bills. So if you have a big bill and not enough money to pay, go by and talk to the friendly employees at West Texas Gas. They will do everything they can to work with you.

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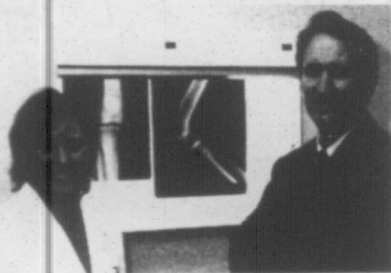
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Justin Ritter ran at the Texas Tech Indoor Track Meet Saturday Feb. 3 in Lubbock. He placed 2nd in the 600 and 2nd in the 4X4 100 Relay.

Comet Cleaners will now pick up dry-cleaning on Tuesday and deliver on Thursday at Trinity & Co.

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# Groom Tigers Cinch District Championship

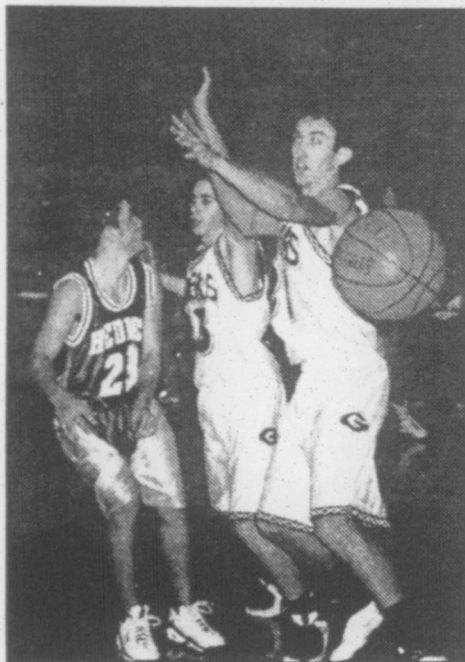
The Tigers dropped their first district game of the season last Friday at Hedley. We shot the ball very poorly and couldn't score. We are still one victory away from claiming the district title. We play McLean at home on Tuesday and hopefully can claim the championship at that time.

Against Hedley, Dewayne Gray had 2 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 assists. Doug Fields had 3 rebounds and 1 assist. Garrett Britten had 6 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal. Russell Conrad had 13 points, 2-3 pointers, 10 rebounds, and 2 steals, and took a charge. Clay Britten had 3 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal, and 2 assists. Cody Babcock had 2 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 assist.

Varsity Boys Basketball  
Groom 80-Lefors 14

The Tigers moved themselves one step closer to the district championship with their win Tuesday night at home. They improved their record to 6-0 in district and 9-8 overall.

The kids are playing really well right now. We had some problems before Christmas but we got those solved and won



Garret Britten and Russell Conrad keep Hedley from passing under the basket.

since we started back after the break. We have come together as a team and played great basketball. The bulk of our losses came in December while we were trying to get our feet under us. We have two more steps to overcome to reach our goal of defending our district

championship from one year ago. These kids all like each other and get along real well and are playing great team basketball. They have overcome a lot of adversity and are trying to do what nobody picked them to do. They are overachieving and playing above their heads



Tiger Garrett Britten blocking view of basket from Hedley shooter.

and beating people that are bigger and faster than them, but they rise up to challenges and it is a lot of fun to watch.

We are lead by our seniors Dewayne Gray and Russell Conrad. Against Lefors Dewayne had 20 points, 1-3 pointers, 1 rebound, 4 steals, and 5 assists. Russell had 17 points, 3-3 pointers, 2 rebounds, 2 steals, and 3 assists. Doug Fields had 9

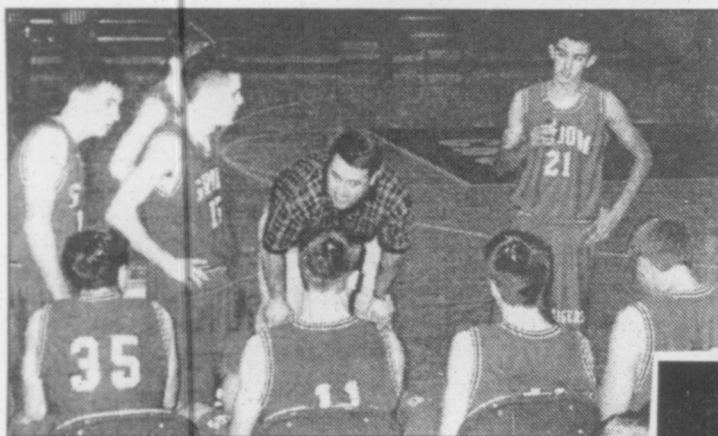
points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist, and 1 blocked shot. Luke Pavlovsky had 5 points, 1-3 pointer, 6 rebounds, 5 steals, and 1 assist. Garrett Britten had 8 points, 2 rebounds, 5 steals, 3 assists, and 1 blocked shot. Lance Ollinger had 5 points, 1-3 pointer, 3 rebounds, 1 steal, and 1 assist. Clay Britten had 4 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, and 3

assist. Cody Babcock had 12 points, 8 rebounds, and 1 blocked shot.

## More Local Happenings

Marcus Miller visited in Groom from Weatherford OK., where he attends college.

# Tigers & Tigerettes 2000-2001



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## February 19th First Day To Sign Up For City, School

The first day to sign up for a place on the ballot for Groom School Board and Groom City Council is February 19. Terms will be expiring for Dennis Babcock and Clifton Britten. There is also an open position (an unexpired term) that was formerly held by Brad Rogers. So in all, 3 seats will be up for grabs. Mayor, Joe Homer's term will expire as well as alderman seats held by

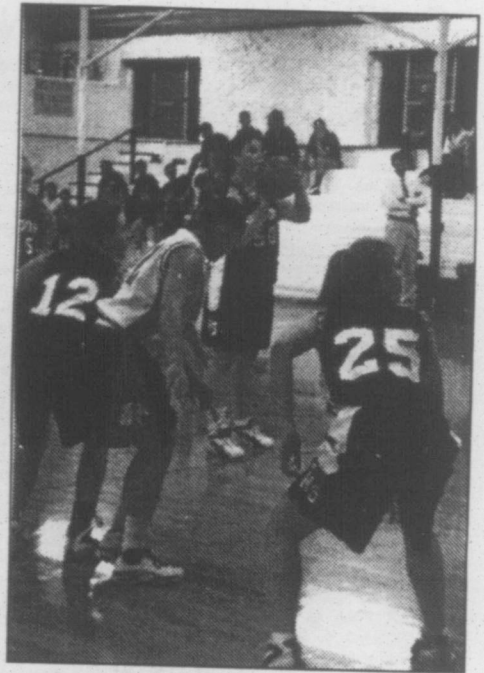
as alderman seats held by Mary Margaret Brooks and Kenny Weller.

Anyone who has established residency in either the District for School Board or city for the City Council may file an application for a place on the ballot. The last day to sign up is March 21st close of business.

If you are civic minded this is a great way to serve your community!



Candace Bohr makes her opponent have to look hard for an open teammate.



Cassie Ashford lines up for a free shot while her teammates prepare to rebound.

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Love Love



Many friends and family members attended Marie Bohr's Anniversary part at The State National Bank.

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## CattleWomen Elect New Officers

The Top O' Texas CattleWomen opened the new year with a meeting at the Hughey House, a bed and breakfast established in Pampa, Texas, Jan. 8, 2001. The new president, Kay Stiles, opened the meeting with a prayer for the group and the coming year.

There are number of conventions coming up that CattleWomen should be interested in attending. The first is the National Cattle Women's Convention which will be held in San Antonio, Jan. 20, through Feb. 4, 2001. Lilith, Amy, and Sena Brainard are planning to attend. Others are urged to attend if possible. A Board of Director's meeting is planned for Feb. 17, 2001 in Austin, and the Spring Convention is also set for March 26 and 27, in Austin, with the Regional Meeting following.

Amy Brainard brought 10 books of six tickets each to be sold on two prints by artist Wayne Baize. The tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The drawing for these prints will be held at the Spring Convention. She also brought some Texas CattleWomen Cookbooks for members to buy or sell.

Amy is on the state committee for the Texas

Beef Cookoff sponsored by Texas CattleWomen. The deadline to enter recipes is March 31, 2001. There is a web site for anyone who is interested in this contest and its rules and categories. The web site address is: [www.beefcookoff.org](http://www.beefcookoff.org). Non-cattle-owning, non-

professional cooks may enter numerous recipes in numerous categories. Top O' Texas Cattle Women urge these people to enter their beef recipes as the monetary rewards are great.

Liz Austin has agreed to look into the matter of updating our local's web page, while Sandra Christner, Lilith Brainard, and Glenda Adcock will meet to update and clarify our local Scholarship's rules and essay for the graduating high school seniors in our nine county area.

The Program for this meeting was presented by Karen Tellman from the Wheeler County Extension Office. She gave out brochures on the proper temperature to cook various meats, and told us that ground beef cooked slowly at the proper temperature could still be pink in the middle, while some ground beef browned throughout, might not have been cooked at a high enough temperature to be safe to eat. She encouraged the use of a meat thermometers. She also demonstrated the use of photographs to personalize books such as cookbooks, etc. This is quite effective. She and Liz Austin distributed little cookbooks they had made and other useful information.

After the meeting the ladies enjoyed a wonderfully flavored brisket meal. Members attending were Kay Stiles, Anna Lee Barton, Anita Brown, Margaret Tolbert, Nadyne Williams, Glenda Adcock, Pat Youngblood, Mary Mitchell, Liz Austin, Julie Watkins, Berkley

Clements, Carolyn Buckingham, Dianne Buckingham, Lilith Brainard, Amy Brainard, Sena Brainard, and Sandra Christner, and guests Kim Adcock and Karen Tellman. Two small guests also attended, Gracee Gill, granddaughter of Glenda Adcock and Philip Shelton, grandson of Pat Youngblood.

The next meeting of the Top O' Texas Cattle Women will be at the Coke Shop in Canadian, Texas, Feb. 12, 2001. We hope to see you there.

## No Texas Electricity Crisis Expected

It's easy to see there's a crisis in California these days. Every day, we read reports of severe electricity shortages. You may be wondering whether this could happen in Texas. The answer is "No" for three key reasons.

First, Texas is building power plants and power lines to stay well ahead of customer needs. California is not. This week, the PUC issued updated figures on our power supply. Thanks to our 35 new power plants, on the hottest day of this coming summer, we should have a 23.3 percent excess power reserve above firm customer demand. That's a healthy cushion-well above the 15 percent goal used under regulation. Texas is an electricity buyer's market. California, with a reserve margin near zero, is a seller's market.

This plant construction happened because the Texas Legislature allowed any company (not just utilities) to enter the power generation market in 1995. The PUC has set out clear rules to speed the connection of new power plants to the power grid. The permitting process is also clear and focused. As a result, it takes about two years to build a clean, efficient power plant in

## Mr. & Mrs. Bob Major Celebrate Sixtieth Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Major of Kanorado, Kansas celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 31, 2000. Bob and Fran were lifetime residents of the Texas Panhandle, owning an ornamental iron business in Groom from the mid 1940's to 1954. They then moved to White Deer and were involved in the farming industry from 1954 through 1975. Bob owned his own real estate agency from 1977 until 1991 when he retired and both he and Fran moved to Kanorado, Kansas.

Their family includes a son, Ron and Barbara Major of Leawood, Kansas, their daughters Tonya and Mike Fielder of Ozark, Missouri, and Stephanie and Joe Bradley of Rogers, Arkansas; a daughter Judy and Jay Snyder of Burlington, daughters Miranda and Mikenna, and Dana and Landon Richards of Burlington, Colorado, their two sons Dalton and Dylan.

Bob and Fran send wishes to all their many friends.



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Texas, compared to six or seven years in California.

A second key difference between Texas and California is the diversity of our power supply. Last year, about 46 percent of our power came from gas-fired plants, 41 percent from coal plants, and 13 percent from nuclear plants. (West Texas is now the hub of U.S. wind power investment, but those numbers won't show up for a couple of years).

By contrast, California depends on hydroelectric power-including a large amount from outside the state for 25 percent of its needs. Hydropower is great when it rains, but when it doesn't, the safety cushion evaporates. Here in Texas, we don't rely on intermittent resources.

Finally, our focus in Texas is on implementing competition before deregulation. Workable competition is much better regulator than

government. But until there is sufficient supply of power and the wholesale market is working well, it doesn't help customers to deregulate a monopoly. That's why the Texas plan has a 12-year phase in, which began in 1995. Pennsylvania is one state that's doing it right by focusing on competition first. Customers there already are seeing savings of up to 15 percent on their monthly bills.

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