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The McLean News



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Published Weekly
January 31, 2002

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Reminder



THERE WILL BE A meeting of the McLean Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m. at 218 N. Main St. That is the Biral USA Business. (The old Flower Shop)

THERE WILL BE A breast cancer screening clinic in McLean at the Lovett Memorial Library, Feb. 8, 2002. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call toll free 1-800-377-4673 or 806-356-1905. An appointment is needed. There is financial aid available. This is a project of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.



SCHOOL PICTURES

The Children of the McLean Schools had their class pictures taken for the year. Everyone was dressed up and ready for the camera. Mrs. Sander's Kindergarten Class are learning computer skills. By the time the children can read they already have a great start on how to use a computer.

MCLEAN TIGERS Basketball will host Miami Friday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 and Groom, Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 for the last game of the year.

FAMILY READING Night will be cancelled on Monday, Feb. 4 but will begin again on Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.

THERE WILL BE NO School on Friday, Feb. 1 or Monday Feb. 4. Enjoy the long weekend.

PROJECT GRADUATION is hosting a brisket and sausage dinner on Sunday, Feb. 3 from 12:00 p.m. until the food is gone. It will be in the school cafeteria.

School Board Signs Agreement With Former Superintendent, Both Parties Agree Not To Sue

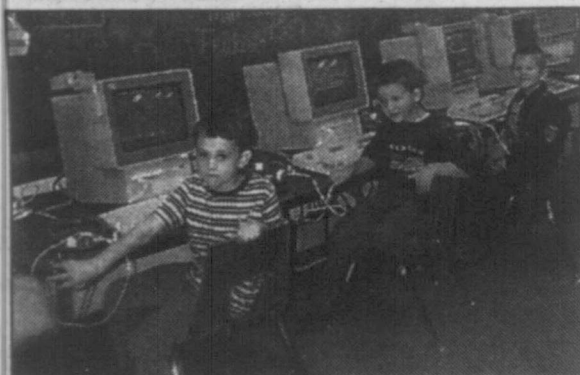
The McLean School Board voted unanimously to an agreement with former Superintendent John Griffin to an offer made by Mr. Griffin's attorney, Harold Comer. According to the agreement, Mr. Griffin will resign as Superintendent as of Dec. 31, 2001 and will not file civil suit against the School Board. In exchange the School Board will not file a civil suit against Mr. Griffin. The Board made the agreement on the advice of the schools attorney, Ken Fields.

According to Toni Bohlar "this is just a formality and does not effect the investigation or

prosecution. It doesn't change the criminal case at all."

According to District Attorney, Rick Roach, this is still an ongoing investigation by the Texas Rangers. After the investigation "Where ever it takes him," Mr. Roach will present the findings to the Grand Jury and based on the evidence they will decide if a crime has been committed.

To date more money has been spent by the ISD on investigating, then has been found to be missing. That doesn't mean there isn't more to be found, and that is the Rangers job, to find it and who if anyone, has taken it.



Kindergartners learn how to use a computer.

Alanreed Residents Seek Agreement With School Over Former Property

The McLean Independent School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 21, 2002. Board members present were John Holland, Toni Bohlar, Neal Odom, Joe Riley, and Mike Darsey. Others present were Interim Superintendent, Bob Downs, Leslie Darsey, Secretary, Margaret Milam, Mindy Reeves, Ken Fields, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Adams, Cathy Dorsey, Billy McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Frost, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Bohlar, Mr. and Mrs. David Crockett, Ray Harris, Susie Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bode, Jim Krueger, G. Wills, Joy Spears, James Armbrister, Frank Worsham, Jim Bible, and

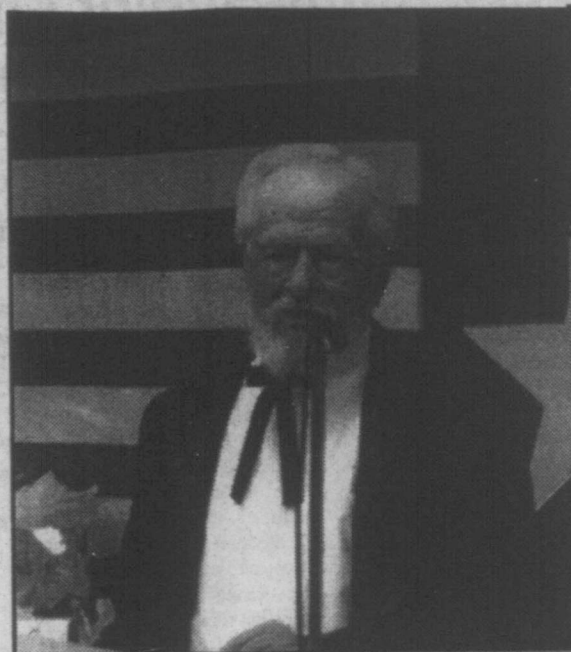
Robert Bruce.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04, by John Holland. Neal Odom gave the opening prayer.

January is School Board Recognition Month, and Ms. Milam served delicious snacks that she had prepared, with the help of Myrtle Billingsley and Tammy Hanes. Each Board member was presented with an honorary certificate for their hard work and dedication to making wise decisions involving the school districts.

A motion was passed to approve the Special Meeting minutes of December 13, 2001.

See School Board, pg. 9



Bill Reeves To Seek Office of Hide and Animal Inspector

Bill R. Reeves is pleased to announce his candidacy for the office, Gray Co. Inspector of Hides and Animals. Now if you have never heard of this office it may be because no one has held this off since the early 1900's.

Why does Reeves wish to run for an office with no responsibilities and no salary?

"My intent is to remove this office from any future ballots. I also intend to use this considerable title, which is certainly a pinnacle of recognition, as a voluntary ombudsman to encourage senior citizens to take a greater role in local, county, and state politics," he stated, "I also plan to continue to oppose large captive hog feeding operations unless these operations have prior approved by

the majority of Gray Co. voters."

"I will volunteer in any capacity possible to improve the quality of life for Gray Co. residents and where possible county taxpayers. If elected, I will resign at the first mention of any salary, expenses or any of the bells and whistles that somehow might become available."

Reeves was born and raised in the Gray County-McLean Area. He is a veteran and was in Federal Law Enforcement for 20 years. He has been married to his wife Lynn for 53 years. He currently runs just enough cows to "make me wish for more grass!"

"I really would like to be your hide inspector! Don't forget to vote."

A paid pol. announcement by Bill Reeves

Meteorologists Predict That Winter Is About To Make A Comeback

According to the National Weather Service, this has been an especially warm winter. Amarillo broke the record high on Monday the 28.

Temperatures are supposed to warm up through the weekend and although there may be some rain in the middle of the week the temperatures should still have

highs in the 50's and lows of 20's.

If you look closely around town you may see some signs of spring, daffodils are already up in my yard. Much of the rest of the country is experiencing the same warm spells. In Washington D.C., there are already signs of the cherry trees getting ready to blossom.

Local Woman Needs Your Help With Medical Problem

Peri Grigsby of McLean is in Baptist St. Anthony Hospital in Amarillo praying for a miracle. She is fighting a disease called Lupus and has one hope left. She needs a stem cell transplant but as of yet no matching donor has been found. If you have B+ blood you may be the answer to her prayers. Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease that can attack most parts of your body including joints and organs. About 40 to 50 out of 100,000 Americans have the disease most of them are women. In 97 percent of the cases of the disease Lupus won't shorten your life span but unfortunately Peri doesn't fall into that category.

Doctors are hoping to perform the stem cell procedure on Peri within four weeks. If you have B+ blood and wish to help, you can be tested to see if you are a match. Contact Dr. Sean H. Lim at 806-359-4673 or fax him at 86-354-5885. You must mention Peri's name. Let him know you would like to be tested for compatibility. The only cost to you would be the gas to Amarillo, the reward immeasurable.

Another Drug Bust Occurs On Interstate

In what is becoming a weekly event, Troopers made another drug bust on I-40 at mile marker 140 near McLean when they pulled a truck over for a traffic violation. Steve Simmonds, 35 of Bronx, N.Y. and Terrence Stephens, 28 of Irving, N.J. were taken to the Gray Co. Jail, Monday, Jan. 21, when 450 pounds of Marijuana was found beneath the sleeper compartment of their eastbound 1999 Freightliner truck/trailer. Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman set bail at \$100,000.

It is believed that the drugs were coming from El Paso, Texas and being taken to New Jersey. The street value of the drugs is estimated at \$270,000.

On Monday, Jan. 28, DPS Troopers seized \$179,480 in U.S. currency. At approximately 12:16 p.m., Troopers stopped a Mercury on I-40 at mile post #117 near

See Bust, pg. 8

McLean Birthdays Anniversaries

January 31 - Clarene Williams, Ray Kirkland, Adam Barker, Oneta Harkins, Tori Bybee, Lee Roy Buckhaults, Tammye Armbrister.
 February 1 - Lorene Guyton, Marcie Ferguson.
 February 2 -
 February 3 - Vance Coleman, Jeff Kingston,
 February 4 - Teresa Eubank.
 February 5 - Monty Joiner, Lester Lee, Bill Fuller.
 February 6 - Kelby McClellan.

LITTLE DRIBBLERS-Little Jimmy Memorial Tourney will be held at Lefors on Jan. 13, Feb. 1, and 2nd. 3rd-5th grade only.

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Bust

Groom going westbound. The Mercury was stopped for a traffic violation. Samir Mikhail Mati, 56, of Hazel Park, Michigan was the driver of the Mercury. During a search of the Mercury, Troopers found the cash in the right rear door. Mati was booked into the Gray County Jail in Pampa for money laundering. The cash was seized pending an investigation.

John and Ruth Bible had their children visiting. They are Jeri Horn and children, Stacy and Daniel of Lisbon, Iowa; Janet Creek and son Clinton of Amarillo; Jane Roop of Homer, Alaska and daughter, Karen of Dallas; Jim and Vonnie Bible of McLean and daughter Missy of Vinta, Oklahoma; and Jean and Jerry Price of Dallas.

McLean Briefs

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC TO BE HELD

An immunization clinic will be held on February 20, 2002 at the Texas Department of Health, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa, Texas. It will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



McLean Students of the Week for Jan. 21-25 are Jacie Ketcherside, Shiloh Brown, Devin Chambers, Ashley Byron, Jessi skipper, Kaid Shaller, Jacob Connors and Amanda Fricks.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An open letter of apology to Chet Bohlar on the occasion of his attendance at a McLean ISD meeting.

Chet, I see where you were recently exposed to the arrogance that has epitomized and been the ongoing trait and chief product of our local school board.

So school board meetings are not public meetings? I often wondered why the board was required to post in advance public notice of the time, place and agenda of the next meeting. This board without delay, Chet, should obtain a copy of the Texas Open Meeting Law from the Texas Attorney General. If after reading the document, the board still had problems or if questions remain, consideration should be given to having someone not a board member, whose primary language is the English language, read and explain about open meetings. The board meetings are not held as spectator entertainments although there has been some funny stuff coming out of them.

Your attempt to speak in favor of the return of Alanreed School property to Alanreed citizens was straight-forward and deserved a civil hearing.

Returning the building to Alanreed could protect the

properties from further neglect, looting and theft they have endured under the non-management of boards of trustees of the McLean ISD. Don't let this negative experience get to you. When a person elected to public office is arrogant to a constituent, visitor, or guest, it is only misplaced self-esteem gone haywire. There is nothing wrong with an arrogant attitude per se provided there is a track record to justify it. In this case that is not the case. I hope you and the folks at Alanreed have better luck in having the school properties restored to you than McLean District taxpayers have had in seeing any reasonable, logical and equitable reparations for the \$40,000.00 in band instruments that have been stolen, destroyed or loaned. These items have been "on loan" for from 3-5 years. When you borrow something and don't intend to repay or return it, what is it called?

The retiring school superintendent would have been given a gold watch on the occasion of his retirement, but the money just wasn't there. School trustees? How about school trustees?

Hang in there Chet and keep this letter. It is the only apology you will ever get.

Bill Reeves

Gray County Junior Livestock Show & Sale Takes Center Ring!

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Heifers
 Exotic Cross-1st place and Breed Champion-Chloe Smith.

Steers
 American Breed Crosses-2nd place and Reserve Breed Champion-Chisum Smith.

Limousine-1st place and Breed Champion-Krista Smith.

Shorthorn-1st place and Breed Champion-Chloe Smith; Grand Champion-Krista Smith; Senior Showmanship-1st place-Chloe Smith; and Junior Showmanship-2nd place-Krista Smith.

Lambs
 Finewool-1st place and Breed Champion-Travis Fish.

Medium Weight Finewool Cross-1st place and Breed Champion-Travis Fish; 2nd place-Zachary Odom.

Heavy Weight Finewool Cross-1st place and Reserve Breed Champion-Nicholas Odom; 2nd place-Kristen Odom; 3rd place-Nicholas Odom.

Light Weight Medium Wool-1st place-Nikki Hefley; 2nd place-Nikki Hefley; 3rd place-Chloe Smith.

Medium Weight Medium Wool-2nd place-Nikki Hefley; 3rd place-Tanner Cadra; 4th place-Chloe Smith.

Medium Heavy Weight Medium Wool-1st place and Breed Champion-Trent Cadra; 2nd place

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Heavy Weight Medium Wool-1st place-Travis Fish; 2nd place-Chloe Smith.

Southdown-2nd place and Reserve Breed Champion-Nikki Hefley; Grand Champion Lamb-Trent Cadra; Reserve Grand Champion Lamb-Travis Fish.

Senior Showmanship-1st place-Trent Cadra; 2nd place-Nikki Hefley.

Junior Showmanship-1st place-Kristen Odom.

Barrows

Berkshire-3rd place-Kevin Smith; 4th place-Brooke Seymour.

Heavy Weight Chester-3rd place-Brooke Seymour.

Medium Weight-Duroc-1st place and Reserve Breed Champion-Kutter Anderson; 7th place-Josh Seymour.

Medium Heavy Weight Duroc-3rd place-Delinda Simpson; 7th place-Tanner Cadra; 8th place-Keith Raines.

Heavy Weight Duroc-5th place-Traci Riggsby.

Light Weight Hampshire-7th place-Sandi Anderson; 9th place-Cole Campier; 10th place Zachary Seymour.

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Other Pure Breeds-1st place Breed Champion-Zachary Seymour.

Heavy Weight Spots and Polands-4th place-Laura Thomason.

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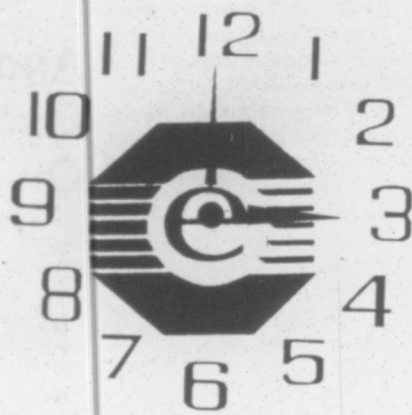
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School Board

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. for consultation with attorney, Ken Fields, to consider pending or proposed litigation of Superintendent, John Griffin.

Return to open session came at 6:45 for voting purposes. On January 3, 2002, Mr. Fields had received two documents signed by John W. Griffin. Mr. Griffin's resignation and a settlement agreement effective 12-31-01, had been delivered by Griffin's attorney, Harold Comer. An Order of Dismissal stating that all matters in controversy between McLean ISD V. John W. Griffin, have been resolved, was Ordered and dismissed by the Certified Hearing Examiner, Phil Vanderpool. Therefore, the joint released from further legal action. The audit figures discussed were not of the magnitude for civil litigation. Mr. Fields advised the Board to accept this draft to release the Board and the School District. A motion was passed to accept the resignation of John W. Griffin, and for John Holland to sign the settlement.

A motion was passed to renew the reciprocal agreement with Gray County Supervision and Corrections Department to provide work needing to be done around the school, if anyone is sentenced to community service during the summer months.

Billy Bob Adams represented the Alanreed Community in letting the Board know that they were still very much interested in acquiring the Alanreed property. The people of the community of Alanreed were present to state their position and brought a proposal. Mr.

Downs will be working on a resolution to get the property transferred to the Alanreed Community. It will involve a public hearing, advertising, and transfer of deed. The communication must be open in order for all to know what is going on. Mr. Adams will be placed on the next agenda. Some areas of concern were the issue of insurance, because if the Alanreed Community fails or dissolves then the property would revert back to McLean ISD, the original owner.

Mr. Downs informed the Board that he had applied for the school to get the e-rate (government money from tax on phone bills) and this e-rate would pay for 80% of the telecommunication charges of the school. Mr. Downs also stated that steps have been taken to correct any problems pointed out in the audit regarding the operations of the school. These measure include a new Purchase Order System in place for all supplies that are ordered to be approved by the Superintendent. Salaries were corrected to all go through Payroll. The credit card policy is in place. Fixed assets over \$5000 will be inventoried before next year. All checks and balances must be approved by 2 people. Mr. Downs found excessive phone lines on campus and had two lines canceled, as well as, an internet library service that was not being used.

A motion was passed to approve the Financial Reports A, B, and C.

A motion was passed to approve the December bills as presented, and to sign the corresponding checks on the table.

McLean Hoop News

The McLean Tigers fall to Lefors, 64-46. Leading scoring was Terrence Fite, 11; Tyler Hanes, 10; Josh Seymour, 9; Chris Sparling, 9; Jay Wallis, 4; Lucas Seymour, 1; and Andy Ritchie, 2.

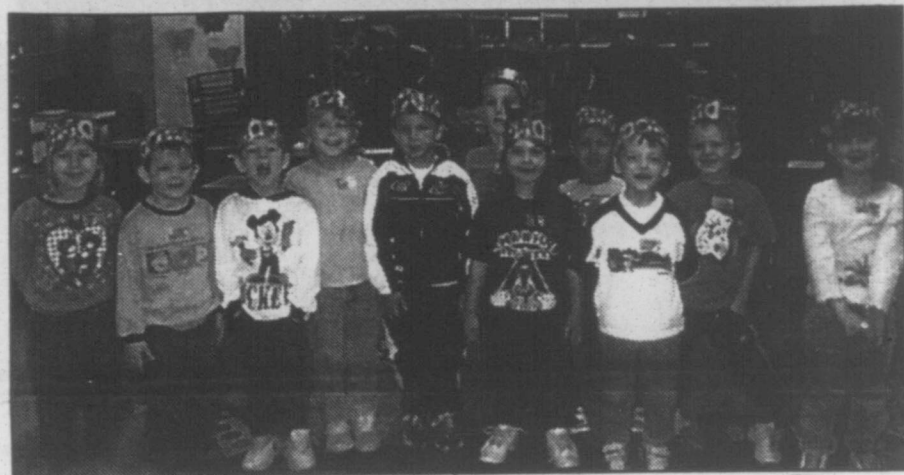
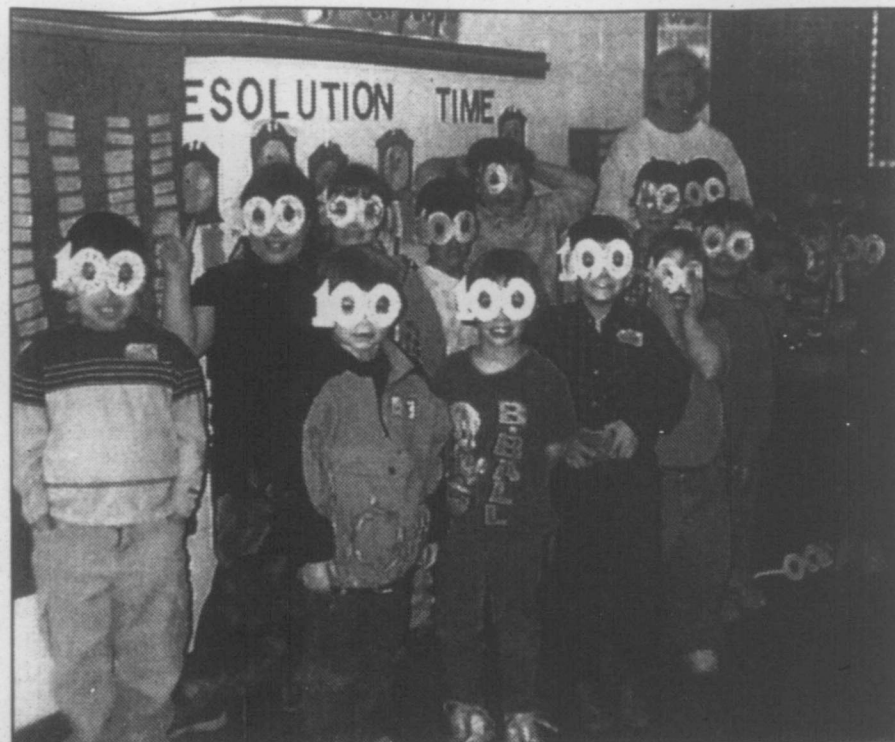
The Jr. High Boys Team lost to Samnorwood, 42-18. The scoring consisted of Justin Dilmon, 4; Preston Todd, 3; Chisum Smith, 3; John Haynes, 2; Zack Sanderson, 2; Steve Vassey, 2; and Thomas Glazner, 2.

On Tuesday, January 22, the Lady Tigers bested Samnorwood, 58-29. Scoring was Randi Riley, 23; Nikki Hefley, 13; Shaley Steel, 10; Danielle Dampier, 4; Sandi Anderson, 3; Jami Seitz, 3; and Jennifer Greer, 2.

On Friday, January 25, the Lady Tigers beat Lefors 41-24. Scoring was Randi Riley, 14; Shaley Steel, 11; Danielle Dampier, 8; Nikki Hefley, 7; Sandi Anderson, 2; and Jennifer Greer, 2.

On Monday, January 28, the Jr. High girls lost to Samnorwood, 41-24. Scoring was Erin Bailey, 6; Krista Smith, 5; Lindsey Ruiz, 4; Amanda Fricks, 4; Meagan Alexander, 2; and Tamara Loya, 1.

(Top) Mrs. Glass' 1st Grade class celebrate 100 day of school by making "100" style glasses. (Bottom) Mrs. Sanders kindergarten class celebrate by wearing 100 crowns.



MCLEAN TIGERS & LADY TIGERS

Tiger & Lady Tiger Super Fans

- The Bank of Commerce
- C & H Supply
- McLean Feedyard
- Country Corner
- Red River Steak House
- Kirk Auto Supply
- Puckett's Grocery
- Richardson Auto
- EPIA Inc.
- dba Simpson Insurance Agency
- Mary Dwyer
- Delbert & Ruth Trew



Emily Bolin



Linday Eddleman



Amanda Hauck



Tamara Loya



Kristen Odom



Danielle Dampier



Randi Jo Riley



Erin Bailey

National Pig Development Controversy Continues Discussion In Gray Co.

By now you must have heard of the controversy concerning the NPD (National Pig Development) of North Carolina applying for a permit to build a CAFO in the Pampa area. They have asked the TNRCC (Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission) in Austin for a permit to build a genetic research facility to service between 3,700 to 50,000 pigs. The debate in Pampa has been raging and last week there was two meetings designed to inform the citizens of Gray Co. and to listen to their comments.

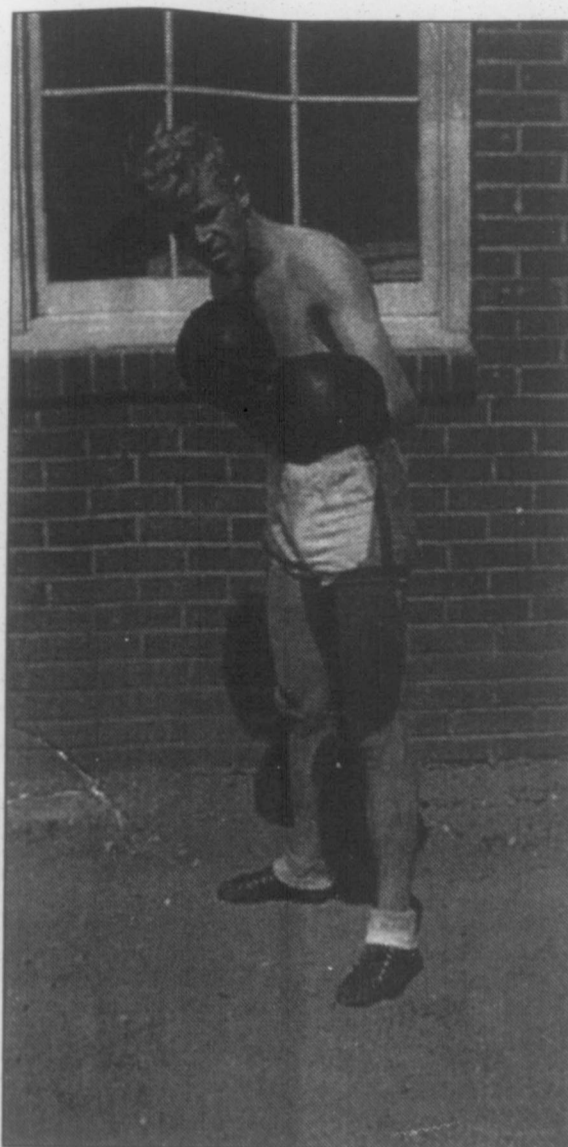
The first meeting was Monday night and Colorado Professor Dr. William J. Weida spoke to 150 local and area residents in M.K. Brown Auditorium. Dr. Weida informed the crowd that they shouldn't expect to many jobs from the plant due to the fact that most of the upper management jobs are brought in with the company from other areas. The other jobs have a very high turnover rate of up to 100 percent and Dr. Weida also said that pollution is a problem. He believes that the county commissioners should take a trip to a place where there is already a facility and check them out, he believes that the figure of \$42,000 an acre for cleanup will not be enough.

On Tuesday the TNRCC came and held a public meeting at the request of State Rep. Warren Chisum to allow people who couldn't travel to Austin to have a voice. 45 people stood and made statements both pro and con. There were several men wearing badges that said "I like pigs" in

support. There were many reasons expressed why people were against. Smell and water pollution seemed to head the list. There is concern that the NPD does not monitor wells to check for water contamination often enough and by the time the contamination is found it is hard and expensive to clean up. Another concern is the good possibility that this will be just the first in many facilities in the area. Permits have been granted to build facilities in Hutchinson and Moore counties for 88,300 swine, and a pork processing plant is being proposed between Dumas and Amarillo.

On the pro side, Ronnie Goode a professional agronomist said Pampa's population has declined extensively and we need to bring industry to the area. He said "I want to see rural America rebound." He believes CAFOs are a way to do that. Former Mayor Bob Neslage said he has worked with the TNRCC on several city projects and believes their standards are high and not easily met.

Gray County Commissioner James Hefley, who resides in McLean says he isn't sure what impact this would have on McLean although he is concerned with the possibility of the area being over run with similar facilities. The Gray Co. Commissioners Court is going to appoint a committee to study the industry. According to Judge Richard Peet, they are looking for at least 15 people with varying experience in areas like agriculture, water officials, and the swine, poultry, and cattle industry to make recommendations on swine regulations.



Former Golden Glove Champ Resides In McLean

John Bible (Jake) who lives in McLean won the Golden Gloves Boxing Feather Weight Division Tournament in 1938 at Pampa, Texas and advanced to the State Tournament in Ft. Worth in 1938. Jake is a veteran of WWII and served in the Pacific Campaign.

Jake was one of six boys and 3 girls who grew up on several different farms south of Alanreed. He and wife Ruth live in McLean. They had five daughters, one deceased, and two boys. Jim lives

in McLean. Jake attended school at Alanreed. Boxing was a school sport similar to other sports today, but stopped around 1950.

My father who had previous boxing experience coached Jake and many others who wanted to box. The only others I can think of who live here, who were trained by H.H. Worsham, are Bob Sherrod and myself (Frank Worsham). There are many others who live elsewhere.

EDC Is Off To A Great New Start

The McLean EDC has gotten off to a good start. Last week members went out visiting the local businesses according to Jim Reyna, EDC President. "We encourage not only merchants but the community to give us their input as we look to strengthen and improve the economy and the quality of life in McLean."

The members of the EDC are Jim Reyna, Mary Dwyer, LaVon Watson, LaVern Back, Betty Morgan, Steve Bolin, Charley McClendon.

The next meeting will be held Feb 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the library. All meetings are public and we

encourage the communities participation.

DPS Grant To Cover Audio-Video Equipment In Gray County Constable Vehicles

The Commissioners Court met in Special Session there of at the 315 N. Ballard in Pampa, Texas on this the 2nd day of January, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. with the following officers and members present, to-wit: Richard D. Peet, County Judge; Commissioner, Joe Wheeley, Pr. #1, Jim Greene, Pr. #2, Gerald Wright, Pr. #3, James Hefley, Pr. #4; and Susan Winborne, Clerk of the Court.

Dr. Louis Haydon addressed the Court concerning the pollution of the Ogallala Aquifer. He gave each member of the Court printed material on the subject. The minutes of the December 14, 2001 were approved. The Court approved appointing Iris Ragsdale, Lee Frazier, Wanda Carter and Commissioner Joe Wheeley to serve on the White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board until December 31, 2004.

The Court approved a request from Constables of Precincts 1 and 3 and 2 to apply for a grant from the Department of Public Safety for the purchase of video and audio equipment for their vehicles.

Constable Lockridge addressed the Court concerning the DPS grant. The grant will cover the cost of purchasing video and audio equipment to be installed in the Constables' vehicles. The total cost of the equipment will be \$4100 per unit.

The Court approved membership in the National Watershed Coalition. The dues are \$50.00 per year.

The Court questioned District

Attorney Roach on a phone bill for the Wheeler office that had been submitted to Gray County for

payment. Mr. Roach reminded the Court that Gray County had paid the phone bill for the Shamrock office during the term of his predecessor. Since taking office, Mr. Roach has closed the Shamrock office and opened the Wheeler office. He stated that Gray County is now only paying for the same items it had paid for the Shamrock office. He further informed the Court that he had included the phone bill for this office in his budget.

The Commissioners approved monthly bills in the amount of \$235,185.85 and ordered to be paid according to "Minutes of Accounts Allowed."

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Chavez presented the Court with \$9,602.43 to be returned to the general fund. These funds were part of a local match from Gray County that had not been used by the Juvenile Probation Department. Mr. Chavez thanked the Court for their help and support.

Judge Peet informed the Court that Gray County is eligible for emergency disaster funds for agriculture.

Judge Peet also informed the Court that Tejas Feeders has applied to TNRCC for authorization to expand an existing beef cattle facility.

The Court finalized the list of members to serve on the committee to write a resolution to the TNRCC.

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Sunday Bible School 10 am
Worship 10:40 am & 6 pm, Wed. Bible Class 7:30

First Assembly of God 4th & Main
Pastor Deah Williamson 779-2221
Sunday School - All Ages 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 Children's Church 11:15
Sunday Evening 7:00 Wednesday Family Night 7:00 p.m.
Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study, 2 Home Bible Studies

First Baptist Church 206 E. 1st
Brian Guisenberry, Pastor 779-2175
Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11 am & 7pm, (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
Katierville Road Sunday 9:15

Trinity Baptist Church 603 Commerce
Interim Pastor John Denton 779-3207
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am
Sunday Evening Worship 7 pm, Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm

Cowboy Church at Red River Steakhouse
Cowboy Preacher - Kitchell Collins
779-2456 or 779-2965
Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m., Children's Church, Sunday - 6:00 p.m.



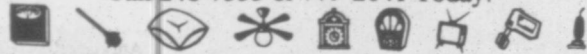
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Deadlines & Payment - Deadline for classified ads-noon Tuesday. All other ads and news submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday. Payment is due at the time you place the ad, unless you have an established account.

Errors - Check your ad for errors on the first publication. The News will not be liable for errors after the 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 or give out personal information.

Political Calendar

The Groom-McLean News is authorized to present the names of the following candidates for office, subject to the Elections to be held on Nov. 5, 2002. A fee of \$35.00 has been paid by each candidate for listing in this column from now till they are eliminated by the Primary election or the final election in November.

DEMOCRAT

For Carson County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1
Bill Hinson

For Carson County Treasurer
Jeannie Cunningham

For Carson County Clerk & District Clerk
Celeste Bichsel

REPUBLICAN

For Carson County Judge
Lewis Powers

For Carson County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Phyllis Tyler

For Carson County Commissioner Precinct 2
Kenneth Ware

For Gray County Clerk
Susan Windom

For Gray County Inspector Of Hides and Animals
Bill Reeves

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LEGAL NOTICE

Competitive Sealed Proposals addressed to Judge Lewis Powers, Carson County Courthouse, P.O. Box 369 (500 Main Street), Panhandle, Texas, hereinafter called "Owner" for the construction of BUR/Modified/Metal/Wood Shingle Roof Replacement, Various Buildings for Carson County.

All Competitive Sealed Proposals shall be in accordance with plans, specifications and contract documents which were prepared by and may be obtained from Jim D. Koontz & Associates, Inc. and will be received in the Office Judge Lewis Powers, Carson County Courthouse, P.O. Box 369 (500 Main Street), Panhandle, Texas 79068 until 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002.

Any proposal received after closing time will be returned unopened. Individual proposals will be taken for each project and each proposal shall be enclosed in a separate sealed opaque envelope. The envelope shall be addressed to the Owner and shall be identified with the Project name, the Proposer's name and address, and the designated portion of the Work for which the Proposal is submitted.

Proposals will be received for the Reroofing Work.

A cashier's check or acceptable proper's bond, payable to the Owner in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total for the proposal submitted, must accompany each proposal.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in starting prices in the proposal, the Owner reserves the right to adopt prices written in words or to reject to proposal.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive all formalities. The Owner reserves the right to award the contract to multiple proposers.

Drawings and Specifications may be examined without charge

in the office of the Engineer, and may be obtained from Jim D. Koontz & Associates, Inc., 3120 North Grimes, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240, 505-392-7676, upon a deposit of \$50.00 as a guarantee of the safe return of the Plans and Specifications. The full amount of this deposit will be returned to each proposer immediately upon return of the Drawings and Specifications in good condition. No refund on contract documents and plans returned later than 10 days after the award of the contract will be obligatory.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Prospective Proposers shall meet at the Office of Judge Lewis Powers, Carson County Courthouse, 500 Main Street, Panhandle, Texas 79068.

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Unopposed Candidates Elected To Groundwater Board

As of the December 19, 2001 deadline, only one person had applied for a place on the ballot in Precincts 2, 4, 6, and 8. In accordance with the Texas Election Code, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors has declared that all unopposed candidates in the February 2, 2002 elections are duly elected to their respective offices and the scheduled election will not be held.

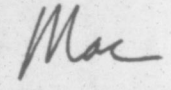
The Texas Election Code allows political subdivisions of the State to declare the results of an election without conducting it, if there are no contested positions. This provision saves a considerable amount of taxpayer money.

Billy Van Crawford, who lives near Panhandle, will begin his first term as Director of Precinct 2. Charles Bowers, who lives at Grandview-Hopkins, was re-elected to Precinct 4. Jim Thompson, who lives at Washburn, was re-elected to Precinct 6, and Danny Hardcastle, who lives near Wheeler, was re-elected Director of Precinct 8.

PGCD has a total of nine elected directors. The four newly elected directors will take office in February, 2002.

ISSUE UPDATE

with
Mac Thornberry



These Unique Times in America Present Challenges, Opportunities

I've heard President Bush say on numerous occasions lately that "these are unique times in America." When you consider all that we've gone through as a Nation over the past year and the challenges ahead for us in the coming year, these are, indeed, unique times for all of us.

Since September 11, we've come a long way in the war on terrorism. And even though we have made a lot of progress, we still have a long way to go.

One overwhelming challenge we will face over the coming year is holding on to the sense of urgency and unity that we have felt since the attacks. We've got to make sure that we do what needs to be done to protect ourselves here at home from future attacks, while supporting our troops fighting terrorism around the world.

Another challenge on everybody's mind is boosting the economy. Congress made a good start by passing tax relief last year, and we've got to follow through on this good start by giving the economy a shot in the arm to get it back on track. The House passed an

economic security bill last year, but the Senate failed to act on it. Now, there are some in Washington proposing that we raise taxes. I think that this is the worst thing the government can do during tough economic times. Washington needs to be leaving more money with American taxpayers, not taking more away.

Other hurdles we face over the coming year are re-writing the farm bill and providing a comprehensive energy policy. The House and Senate failed to reach an agreement on both measures last year. Agriculture needs a new farm bill that will help strengthen the safety net for producers while continuing to give them flexibility to plant what they want to plant. And we need an energy policy that will reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of fuel and help meet the continuing demand for natural gas.

The road ahead this year will not be an easy one. But, I think with this unique set of challenges also comes a unique set of opportunities that will ultimately provide for a safer, more secure, and stronger America.

For more information on this or any other issue before Congress, please write Mac Thornberry at 131 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515, or through his website at www.house.gov/thornberry

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<p>TexSCAN Week of January 27, 2002</p> <p>ADOPTION Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption. OUR NAMES ARE Julie & David and we can't imagine a life without children. We're in our early 30's, blessed with good health and an unconditional love we can't wait to share with a child. Please call us, we're easy to talk to. Call Julie & Dave, 1-877-424-4270, toll-free.</p> <p>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY WARNING: ARE YOU getting ahead or just paying your bills? Discover the "New Way of Making Money". Pioneers become millionaires. Toll free, 1-888-202-8853 or EarnBigAtHome.com</p> <p>DRIVERS WANTED A CAREER OPPORTUNITY. LISA Motor Lines has immediate openings for entry level drivers. No CDL-No problem. Company paid training if qualified. 1-866-367-9933 or 1-817-367-9933.</p> <p>BECOME A TRUCK DRIVER in just a few weeks! Earn \$34,000+ 1st year. No experience needed. Accelerated CDL training. Tuition reimbursement. KLLM & LISA are hiring. 1-888-822-8209. S.W. Driver Recruitment.</p> <p>CFI NEEDS TEAMS and O/O. Loads with miles available immediately. Company - Owner/Operator - Singles and teams. Ask about our 2-week spouse training program in automatic transmission truck. Call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE, www.cfidrive.com</p> <p>DRIVER - TRUCK DRIVERS Wanted! TransForce is hiring drivers. CDL training available. Highly competitive wages and benefits. Call 1-800-806-7859.</p> <p>DRIVER - COMPANY - CONTRACTORS No NYC - Super Regional 10-14 days out. Pay for experience: up to 33¢/cpm Company, 82¢/cpm Contractors. 1-800-454-2887. Arnold Transportation.</p>	<p>DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT now offering per diem pay for experienced teams, solos and trainers. O/O - Solos/Teams 83 cents plus fuel surcharge. No CDL? No problem. We school, no money down. Licensed by SBPCE. School located in Stuttgart, AR. Call 1-888-MORE-PAY (1-888-667-3729).</p> <p>DRIVERS...EXPERIENCE THE power of pride at USA Truck. Top pay up to 43 ¢/mi. Inexperienced? Tuition reimbursement available. O/O's welcome. 1-800-237-4642.</p> <p>DRIVER - YOUR EXPERIENCE pays at SRT. Now hiring experienced OTR drivers to run 48 states and Canada. Class A CDL required. Sign-on bonuses for 1 year plus experience. Student graduates welcome. Call SRT today, 1-877-244-7293 or 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY.</p> <p>DRIVERS - READY TO run? 2-day orientation. Friday paydays. Health insurance after 60 days. In-Cab E-Mail. 6 months OTR, Class "A" required. 1-800-727-4374.</p> <p>DRIVERS: SOLOS UP to .34 cents, teams up to .48 cents, Contractors .81 cents all miles. Lease options available (Zero down.) Holiday orientation pay. Burlington Motor Carriers, 1-800-684-3144.</p> <p>GET TRAINED, GET Hired, Get Paid! No experience needed. Potential to earn \$600-\$900 a week. Drivers, Inc., 1-800-634-9114.</p> <p>FINANCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>BE DEBT FREE - years sooner. Low payments. Reduce interest. Stop late fees. Stop collectors. Family Credit Counseling. Non-profit Christian Agency. Se habla Espanol. Recorded message. 1-800-729-7964. Free quote, www.familycredit.org</p> <p>\$\$\$CASH IMMEDIATE CASH for structured settlements, annuities, real estate notes, private mortgage notes, accident cases, and insurance payouts. 1-800-794-7310.</p> <p><small>NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/tzcp</small></p> <p>Call this newspaper to advertise statewide and regionally or call 512-477-6755</p>
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OSCAR MEYER DELICIOUS LUNCHEABLES 18.5 TO 12.1 OZ. **\$1.69**

The Groom News

50¢

Volume 75 Number 35

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, January 31, 2002

Community Calendar



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for Adopt a Highway cleanup on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 10:00 a.m. to noon. Call David and Lanna Brown at 248-7926 for more information.



NO SCHOOL will be held on Feb. 15 and Feb. 22.

HELP THE JUNIOR Class raise money for their Prom! A Hamburger Supper will be held at the last home game Friday night beginning at 5:30.



GROOM'S 5TH & 6TH will demonstrate their basketball skill on Friday, February 1 for the halftime show during the High School Girls game. Don't miss it!

GROOM'S SENIOR Basketball players will be honored along with their parents at the last home game of the season Friday night, Feb. 1 before each respective game.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. Groom's Annual Track Meet will be held on March 9. The District meet will be held on April 5th in Lefors.

Tuesday Prices At Attebury Grain Co.
Wheat.....\$2.46
Milo.....\$3.35
Corn.....\$3.57
Soybeans...\$3.54
Sunflowers..\$8.05

No precipitation reported



Work is continuing at the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A new building is going up around this lovely fountain.

Carson County Grievance Committee Panel Selected

On January 28, 2002, the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Carson, Texas met in pursuant to adjournment with the members and offices present as follows: Hon. Lewis Powers, County Judge; Commissioners, Mike Britten, Pr. #1, Kenneth Ware, Pr. #2, Jerry Strawn, Pr. #3, and Kevin Howell, Pr. #4.

Minutes of the January 14, 2002 meeting were read and approved.

The court considered claims including a \$249.95 payment from courthouse security funds to pay for safety lights. A motion was passed to pay all claims.

Mogie McCray, Chairman of the Carson County Historical Commission met with the court to present an annual report. The account included 2001-2002 commission members, 2001 financial statement, committees and activities, five-year long range goals and the yearly report to the Texas Historical Commission. Judge Powers made the motion to approve the presentation. The motion passed.

Director of the Carson County Square House Museum, Viola Moore, delivered that entity's annual report. Accounts for the

museum director, educator and registrar were presented. The court reviewed staffing, exhibits, fund raising, grants, and attendance records. A motion was passed to accept the reports.

The court drew names from the previous 2 grand juries to create a salary grievance committee. Chosen for the panel were Grady Story, Pat Pool, Carolyn Hedrick, Mike Darnell, Alice Crawford, Darlene Asencio, Dee Goodman, Lavonda Barkley, and Teresa Britten. A motion was passed to appoint the members.

Commissioners received certification hours for county officials. County Clerk Sonya Shieldknight was recognized for County and District Clerks' continuing education hours for the state association. Qualifying for 8 CEU hours for the GASB 34 Bill training were Barbara Cosper, Gary Robertson, Kenneth Ware, Mike Britten, Kevin Howell, Lewis Powers, Karrie Smith, Phyllis Tyler, Sharon Harper, Bill Hinson, Scott Sherwood, Jeannie Cunningham, Jacqueline West, and Sonya Shieldknight. A motion was passed to recognize the education hours.

See County, pg. 6

Man and Teen Arrest For Arson Of Local Junk Yard & Grassland

On Tuesday, January 22, a local junk yard and several acres of land succumbed to what appears to have been arson.

Carson County was notified of a fire east of Groom. Groom Fire Department personnel reported seeing a white van leaving the vicinity upon their arrival. While firefighters battled the blaze Trooper Gary Davis investigated the cause. A local farmer reported seeing the van parked next to the junk yard.

Trooper Davis discovered footprints, leading from the road to the junkyard and the area where the blaze seemed to originate. Davis located the van at the old Tower Truck Stop parking lot and questioned them.

Jesse Escobebo of Aurora, IL, the driver of the van told Davis that he knew nothing of the fire, but that they had had a flat tire near there.

Trooper Davis returned to the scene of the crime for more investigation. Davis attempted to return to the Tower to interrogate the suspects further only to find them gone. He then observed them driving on a flat tire and swerving across three lanes of traffic. The van pulled into a barn owned by Jerry Thornton.

Trooper Davis again confronted the three suspects about the fire. He asked for identification on the two adults.

The driver, Jesse Escobebo did not have a valid drivers license. The passenger, Andre Carter, stated that the kid, a 15 year old juvenile, went into the junk yard to look for tires and the fire started.

The boy finally admitted to starting the blaze which could have done much more damage due to high winds and several structures which would have been in its path.

Escobebo was charged with arson and theft. The 15 year old juvenile was also charged with theft and arson. Approximately \$10,000 in damage was reported. The property belonged to Greg Britten.

Groom Native Honored By State Extension Service

Groom native Kay Ledbetter Assistant Regional Editor of The Amarillo Globe-News received the State Friend of Extension Award on Jan. 10 at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Program Conference in College Station. The award is the highest honor bestowed by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national fraternity of Extension professionals.

Dr. Bob Robinson, the Texas Extension's district director for agricultural programs in the Texas Panhandle, was one of the people who nominated Ledbetter for the award.

"Kay is a credit to her profession and our community," Robinson said. "When you look at what's happening to agricultural news coverage elsewhere, you gain a true appreciation of the extent and strength of Kay's work at the paper each week."

Ledbetter has been an employee of the Globe-News for nearly 20 years, including a long stint as farm and ranch editor. Her column, Amber Waves, appears on Sundays.

See Ledbetter, pg. 3.

NEW LOOK FOR THE GROOM NEWS

No, it's not you! The Groom News does look different this week. We have been undergoing some changes due to the loss of our printing firm. The Groom News has been printed at Palo Duro Offset Printing in Canyon for the last 17 years. The company recently sold to a firm who is moving operations out of the area. This meant that we at the paper had to find just the right place to have the paper printed. Unfortunately, very few offset printers do the size that our readers have grown accustomed to seeing. The Borger News Herald has come to our rescue and will be printing our paper beginning this week.

So with those facts in mind, we decided that now would be a good time to make some changes. Two things should stand out to you, the type size and the paper size.

We have changed the size of our columns and the size of our type to, what we think, is a more readable size. The type is a little larger and the columns wider.

You will also notice that the paper itself is bigger. We hope to offer you more news for your subscription dollar! At this time we do not plan any kind of subscription price increase, unless postage goes up. That is something that is beyond our control and like production costs on any product, we must increase the price to cover costs.

Our advertisers should like the new format better, because the column is a more standard size. Ad rates may have to be increased slightly but we are still putting a pencil to it to try to keep our rates as close to the same as possible.

We hope you enjoy the new format. Please let us know how you like it, because it is entirely possible that we might have to make further changes if unforeseen problems come up. We at The Groom News are committed to our advertisers and readers in providing you the best possible paper at the best possible price.

The Groom News

USPS 230-380
 Second-class Postage Paid at Groom, Tx.
 Carson County, Texas, under the Act of Congress of
 March 3, 1879.
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 Groom Editor-Donna Burton
 McLean Editor-Ella Mae Reyna

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IMMUNIZATION CLINIC TO BE HELD

An immunization clinic will be held on February 19, 2002 at the Claude Medical Clinic, 201 Park, Claude, Texas. It will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00

Sue and Melvin Will visited with their grandson Logan in Amarillo. His parents Floyd and Lori Wills were also there!

McKinley Brown, son of Tracy Brown of Lubbock, went home this weekend with a wild story to tell his firends. McKinley was getting a ride on his Uncle Lonny's horse when the horse spooked and began to buck. McKinley rode the bronc just like Uncle Lonny (in his younger day), but as Lonny tried to rescue the boy from the nervous horse, Lonny fell and some how broke his leg.

So Uncle Lonny is sporting a walking cast and crutches and McKinley is planning a career as a world champion bronc rider!

Local Happenings

Groom Birthdays Anniversaries

January 31 - Jackie H. Barnett, Michael F. Britten, Lori Jill Britten, Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Baggerman (A), Mr. and Mrs. James Moraniec (A).

February 1 - Amos H. Britten.

February 2 - Bobby Caleb Pool, Mrs. Kelvin Ollinger, Jeff Jenkins, Leigh Ann Hopkins.

February 3 - Amy Brown Williams, Mrs. Kenneth Payton, Leon J. Bohr, Jackie Rennie, Mr. and Mrs. Randy C. Sustaie (A).

February 4 - Tracy Banberry, Larry and Karen Reid (A), Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schaffer (A).

February 5 - Mrs. Robert West, Mrs. Alfred Homer, Mrs. Bill Hinson, Mike Friemel, Louis Leven, Jeanie Wakefield, Esmeralda Medellin.

February 6 - John Adam Stephens.

Irma Ray Rutherford and La Vesta Barnett spent the day in Pampa on Monday.

Gloria Ledwig spent the day in Amarillo with a long list of errands.

Courtney Sustaie of Canyon was home for her birthday and enjoyed a visit with her family in Groom. Her brother, Brad of Lubbock, came home for the celebration.

RICHARDSON NAMED TO HONOR ROLL

Julie Dawn Richardson was recently named to the Oklahoma State University Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall 2001 semester.

APPRAISAL DISTRICT MEETING

The Board of Directors of Carson County Appraisal District met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2002. Present were Chief Appraiser Donita Davis, Chairman Frank Simms, members James Rotramel and Ken Burger. Barbara Cospier, Terry Lewis, and Sherry Kramer were absent.

The meeting was called to order and the Oath of Office was administered to Frank Simms and Ken Burger.

Frank Simms was elected as chairman.

James Rotramel was elected as secretary.

A motion was passed to approve the minutes of the December meeting.

A motion was also passed to approve the January accounts payable.

A motion was passed to mail notices of appraised value to all property owners for the 2002 tax roll.

A motion was passed to appoint Billy Bob Brown and Gail Bennett to the Ag Advisory Board.

A motion was carried to adopt the amendments to the District's Money Purchase Pension Plan.

It's a Boy

We've scored a touchdown with the birth of our "Baller" Behren Bascom Morton played the first game of his very promising career on January 17, 2002. The kick-off was 12:59 p.m. He weighed 9 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 inches long after 9 months of rigorous off-season training.

His coaches James and Suni are excited about his winning performance.

The cheerleaders, McKayla & McKall cheered loudly when Behren made his first touchdown.

A large fan club has already taken shape. Serving as President are Jack and Willie Barnett of Groom, many aunts uncles and cousins.

IT'S YOUR CHANCE to be a hero! A Blood Drive will be held in the school auditorium on Feb. 11 from 2:00 to 6:00.

WILL THE PEOPLE who borrowed carpet stretchers from Kinneth Hambright, please return them.

FIRE DEPT MEMORIALS From Oct. 2001

In memory of Hap Watson: Dorothy Van Deventer.

In memory of Glenn Smith:

Irma R. Rutherford, Bill Homer, W.B. Hinson, Neal Short, N.L. Sargent, Louis Ruthardt, First State Bank of Stratford, Florence Sue and John Bogue, Evelyn Thompson, and William R. Relus.

Junior Hamburger Supper

The junior class will be having a hamburger supper in the scool cafeteria on February 1st at 5:30 pm in order to raise money for prom. It will include a hamburger, chips, dessert and drink for \$5.00. Following the supper, the Tigers and Ettes will be playing their last home game against Hedley. Please come and support the junior class and root on the Tigers!!!

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By Ace Reid



"Oooh, I bet this is fixin' to hurt!"

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

There were four persons booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of January 21 through January 27, 2002. Currently there are 13 persons incarcerated in this jail and additional 17 prisoners being held in other jurisdictions.

Arrest made this week include: Allen Grame, age 46 of Wheeler, TX-10 day commitment on DWI charge.

Herkiel Foreman, age 23 of Evanston, IL-Possession of marijuana more than 50 lb, but less than 2000 lb.


Jeffrey McKenzie, age 29 of Chicago, IL-Possession of marijuana more than 50 lb, but less than 2000 lb.

Joshua Terry, age 20 of Pampa, TX-Driving with intoxicated-1st and unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of marijuana less than 2 oz.

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Local 4-H & FFA Exhibitors To Show Projects In Houston

Local FFA members to exhibit top animals at The 2002 Houston Livestock Show. The 2002 Houston Livestock Show marks the final year that FFA and 4-H youth exhibitors from across Texas will compete in Reliant Hall, and three FFA members from Groom have entered to be there. The 2002 show runs from Feb. 12 through March 3 at Reliant Park.

The junior show, which showcases the animal projects of these FFA and 4-H exhibitors, begins livestock competition on Feb. 22. Professional breeders and ranchers will compete for top prize money and global recognition in the livestock industry during the first 10 days of the show, beginning on Feb. 13.

Entries from both the open and junior shows, along with the horse show, combine to make the Houston Livestock Show the largest event of its kind in the world.

Those exhibiting from Groom include Cody Bivens in Junior Market Steers and Junior Market Barrows, and Lainie and Wyatt

Britten in Junior Market Barrows.

More than 16,000 entries, representing more than 1,000 Texas 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, will compete in this year's junior show. A wide variety of animals will be shown in both the junior and open divisions of the livestock competition, including market steers, market barrows, market lambs, market goats, market poultry, beef and dairy heifers, breeding gilts, breeding sheep, dairy goats, llamas, commercial steers and breeding rabbits.

"The 2002 Houston Livestock Show will be an event exhibitors of all ages will never forget as we hold the world's largest livestock show in Reliant Hall one last time," said John Sykes, assistant general manager, Agricultural Exhibits and Competition Department. "For 37 years, Reliant Hall has been the place where generations of 4-H and FFA exhibitors have gathered for fellowship, friendship and competition. We look forward to continuing that tradition in the new Reliant Center in 2003."

Ledbetter

In addition to her newspaper work, extension officials cited her efforts as a member of the Tri-State Fair Board of Directors, her effort as a volunteer 4-H leader, her service on Extension's executive committee for program development in Potter County, and her civic, church and family commitments, among others.

Ledbetter serves as chairperson of the Texas National Guard Family Advisory Council.

Globe-News Executive Editor Cathy Martindale said Ledbetter is a valuable asset of the newspaper.

"Kay is an important part of the Globe-News organization," Martindale said. "We are very proud of her."

Kay is the daughter of Mary Ann Koetting. She has many family members still in Groom.



A wider view of the fountain and statuary at the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Building continues on offices, a chapel and counseling rooms that will be nearby.

MARGIE SMITH

GROOM-Margie Smith, age 65, of Groom, Texas died Sunday, January 27, 2002. Services were held on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. with the Reverend Rives officiating.

Mrs. Smith was born in Borger, Texas in 1936. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Groom. She was employed by the US Postal Service as a Rural Postal Carrier. She had a great love for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Don Smith; three daughters, Vicki Hammons of Amarillo, Sandra Britten of Groom, and Sherri Wieberg of Groom; one sister, Sonjia Boyd of Cato, OK; one brother, Donald Earhart of Artesia, NM; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The family request memorials be sent to the Groom Ambulance Fund.

SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE GIVES VOICE TO OLDER TEXANS

Texas 60 years of age and older have an opportunity to become a representative from this region to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) beginning January 21, 2002.

These legislatures work with the Texas Legislature on senior issues, which may become law. If you are a person 60 or older and

registered voter, you may file as a candidate for election in the TSHL now through February 28, 2002.

Terms are for two years. TSHL members pay their own expenses.

Even those who do not wish to run are encouraged to vote in the elections. Elections for your TSHL representative will be held May 28, 2002. For more information or to obtain forms for filing, call the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle within Amarillo at 372-3380, outside of Amarillo at 1-800-642-6008.

Memorials To Ambulance Department

From Oct. 2001

In memory of Lloyd Littlefield: Jeannette Blackwell, Bill Homer, Don Lyles.

In memory of Hap Watson: Bill Homer, Kenneth Schultz, Fay Williams, John and Carolyn Williams, Don Lyles, Joe Homer.

In memory of Taters Blackwell: Kenneth Schultz, Don Lyles, Joe Homer, Bill Homer.

In memory of Glenn Smith: Irma R. Rutherford.

In memory of Wayne Guill: Doris Duncan.

In memory of Skeet Brown: Bill Homer and Jack Barnett.

A thank you donation made for Kenneth Schultz: Pampa Ret. Teachers Assn.

A thank you donation made for Louis Leven: Helen Witt.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR Adopt A Highway Clean up, SATU. Feb. 9, 10:00 AM TO NOON. Call David or IANNA BROWN 248-7926

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Junior High Girls Win Consolation At Miami

The Groom Junior High girls won Consolation at the Tomahawk Invitational Tournament in Miami as they ended their season over the weekend. They played their first game against Canadian. Malorie Homen lead the scoring with 8 points. Kecia Howard earned 6 points. Whitney Evenson gained 4 points for the Ettes. Gailynn Drewery and Sherri Britten added 2 points each. The final score was Canadian 32, Groom 22.

In their second game, the Ettes played a white-knuckle game against Follett and won in overtime 33-29.

Malorie Homen was high point with 15. Kecia Howard scored 10 points. Karla Howard added another 6 and Whitney Evenson scored 2.

In the championship game for the Consolation Trophy, Groom battle Lefors and won 23 to 12.

Malorie Homen and Kecia Howard shared high point honors with 8 each. Whitney Evenson scored 3 points. Karla Howard and Micheala Roskens each scored 2 points.

"The Junior High basketball season has come to an end," stated Coach Fisher, "but it ended on a good note. Due to their hard work and dedication they finished 7-4 for the year. If they continue with the same work ethic and positive attitudes their potential could be endless. We had a very good time this year, making my job and theirs one to remember. I would like to thank the parents and fans for their support with this years basketball season: athletic programs rely on positive influences like you to build well-rounded successful student athletes. Again, great job girls."

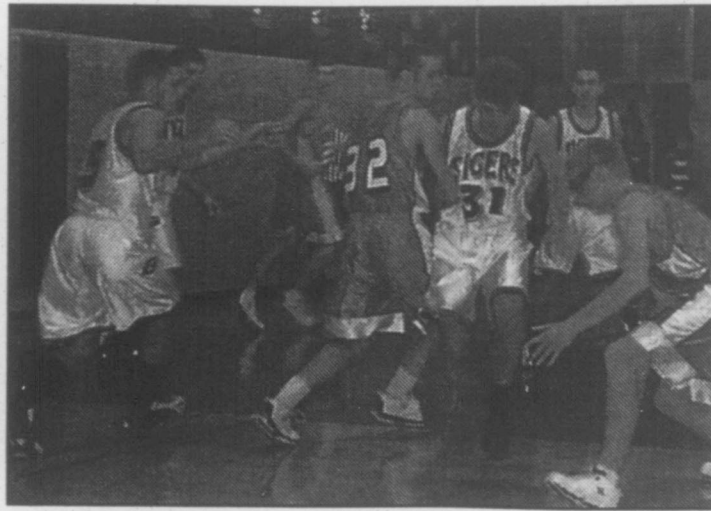
Jr. High Boys End Season

The junior high boys ended a productive season last weekend as they played in the Miami Tomahawk Invitational. They played their first game against Canadian and lost 48-17.

Thane Barkley, Daniel Thompson, and Brandon Jenkins shared high point honors with 4 each. Kelby Noack added another 3 points. Bryan Newton contributed 2 points.

They played a very close match against Hedley and were behind when time ran out 41-38. Thane Barkley had an awesome night scoring a whopping 24 points. Kelby Noack added 8 more points. Kade Brown, Blaine Britten and Brandon Jenkins each contributed 2 points.

The Cubs end their season with these games. The Fans have enjoyed watching these athletes progress and look forward to watching them in future games.



The Tigers chase a loose ball during the game against the McLean Tigers in a fan pleasing game recently.

GROOM SCHOOL MENU February 4-8 Breakfast

Monday: Cold cereal, muffins, juice, milk.

Tuesday: Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, juice, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast burritos, hash brown potatoes, juice, milk.

Thursday: Biscuits, gravy,

bacon, juice, milk.

Friday: Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk.

Lunch

Monday: Burritos with chili, bean dip, peaches, tortilla pieces, milk.

Tuesday: Mexican pile on, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, pineapple, graham crackers, milk.

Wednesday: Fried chicken,

mashed potatoes, green peas, hot rolls, vanilla pudding, milk.

Thursday: Char-broiled chopped steak, scalloped potatoes, black-eyed peas, hot rolls, chocolate no bake cookies, milk.

Friday: Sandwiches, with ham, turkey, or bologna, pork and beans, applesauce, lettuce, tomatoes, potato chips, milk.

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Ettes Walk Away With Win Over Samnorwood

The Groom Tigerettes won against Samnorwood in an easy win. Amanda Conrad scored 16 points to lead the team as high point. Candace Bohr added another 15 points. Krisanne Davis and Donna Barnett each scored 12 points. Lauren Crowell contributed 7 points, Cassie

Ashford 6, Britteny Martin 4, Jill Britten 4, Brin Burgin 3 and Larissa Noack 2.

Groom's girls are 4-1 in District and 17-6 for the season. The Ettes are currently ranked 2nd in district behind Hedley. McLean is 3rd in district followed by Lefors and Samnorwood.

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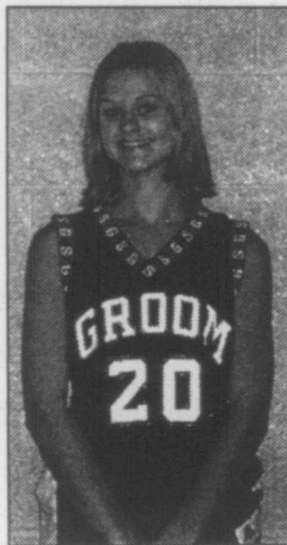
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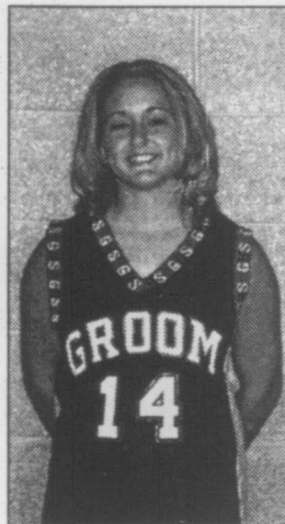
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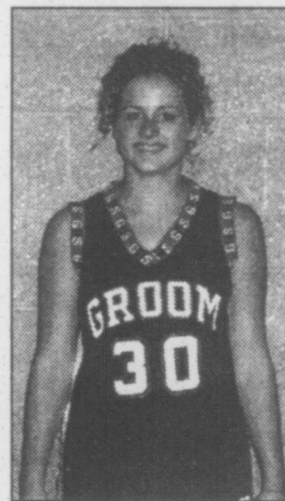
Amanda Conrad



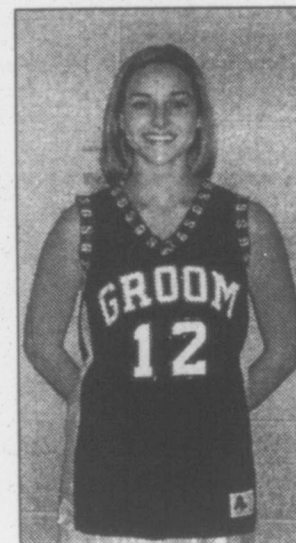
GT



Brin Burgin



Lauren Crowell



Jill Britten

White Deer Wind Ranch Sells To Shell

HOUSTON, Jan. 24, 2002 - shell Renewables' U.S. wind energy operation, shell WindEnergy, Inc., announced today that it has purchased and commenced commercial operation of Llano Estacado Wind Ranch at White Deer, an 80 megawatt (MW) wind power facility in the Texas Panhandle. The project was developed by Cielo Wind Power, LLC of Austin, Texas, and will operate under a 15-year power purchase agreement with Southwest Public Service Company, and Ecel Energy operating company Financial terms of transaction were not disclosed.

Each year, Llano Estacado is estimated to produce enough power to meet the energy needs of approximately 30,000 households. The project is connected at the site to an Xcel Energy 115-kV transmission line.

"We are delighted to have moved so quickly in making a second major investment in U.S. wind power market," said David Jones, director of Shell WindEnergy Inc. "Wind energy is not only the fastest growing area of power generation worldwide but it is also one of the cleanest sources of energy. We intend to explore additional opportunities in this important and growing area and will remain focused on the many attractive options the U.S. market presents for expanding shell's wind energy portfolio."

"Cielo Wind Power is proud of the performance of the project's construction team to complete site work in three months despite severe weather conditions in the Panhandle," said Walter Hornaday, President of Cielo Wind Power, LLC. "We had great local support from the city of White Deer Officials, Carson County officials and the local farmers," acknowledged Hornaday.

"We are pleased to purchase wind energy because generation of electricity from wind conserves natural resources - water, and fossil fuels such as

natural gas and coal," said Gary L. Gibson, Xcel Energy state vice president, Texas, new Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas. "The water savings are particularly important in this region. This purchase will allow Ecel Energy to avoid using about 160 million gallons of water annually."

Shell WindEnergy entered the U.S. market in November 2001 with the launch of Rock River I, a 50 MW wind power facility near Foote Creek Rim, Wyoming. Overall, more than 1,000 MW of wind energy projects are currently being progressed by Shell in the U.S. and Europe. Shell's interest in wind power generation involves nearly all aspects of the development chain, including identification, site evaluation, design, construction and operation.

Shell Renewables is part of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of companies and was established to develop commercial opportunities in solar and wind energy. In solar energy, Shell Renewables has recently joined the top tier players in the solar photovoltaics industry with its joint with Siemens Solar. The key objective for the solar business is to grow in line with the market, which is currently growing at around 25% a year. In the wind business, Shell is focusing on developing and operating wind farms and selling "green" electricity. These areas build on shell's strengths including deal structuring, project management and offshore operations. Projects are being evaluated in Europe and North America. Shell's aim in the wind Business in the next years is to create a platform for growth that builds on its strengths. For more information, please visit www.shell.com/renewables.

Cielo Wind Power, LLC is the largest wind energy developer in the southwest. Cielo has developed approximately 6000 megawatts of wind energy capacity, including the worlds largest wind energy plant, a 278 megawatts facility near McCamey

, Texas. The privately held company is based in Austin, Texas with offices in McCamey and White Deer, Texas. for more information, go to www.cielowind.com.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: Xel) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with operations in 12 Western and Midwestern states. Formed by the merger of Denver-based New Century Energies and Minneapolis - based products and services to 3.2 million electricity customers and 1.7 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. In terms of customers, it is the fourth-largest combination electric and natural gas company in the nation. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.wcelenergy.com

Superintendent Wanted: Woman need not apply (it only seems)

COLLEGE STATION - It sounds like odds straight out of a Las Vegas casino: 40 to 1, except these odds could have long-term effects on your local school system.

Male public school teachers in the United States are 40 times more likely to advance to the superintendency from teaching than are female teachers. Nationally, men hold about 90 percent of all superintendent jobs, yet women comprise about 75 percent of the school system workforce, figures that have changed relatively little over the past 50 years.

The message appears clear: in the U.S. women teach, but men lead school systems.

Dr. Linda Skrla, assistant professor at Texas A&M who specializes in educational leadership and equity issues, conducted research with female superintendents to learn about the experiences of women who hold what has been viewed as a man's

role. The study, titled "Sexism, Silence and Solutions: Women Superintendents Speak Up and Speak Out" and published in *Educational Administration Quarterly*, details the unequal treatment and discrimination female superintendents experience on the job.

The women superintendents interviewed described career-long difficulties with trying to simultaneously meet societal expectations for women and fulfill the requirements of the top job in the school system. For example, members of boards of trustees commonly questioned the women's competence in areas that were non-instructional, such as finance, facilities, and athletics.

Cisco System Donates Wireless Equipment To Texas

COLLEGE STATION - Imagine being able to take a laptop computer to the library and using it anywhere in the building without having to find a place to plug it in so that it can become functional.

Texas A&M University students will have this ability through wireless technology at the Sterling C. Evans Library and annex when the first phase of the system is completed in the near future.

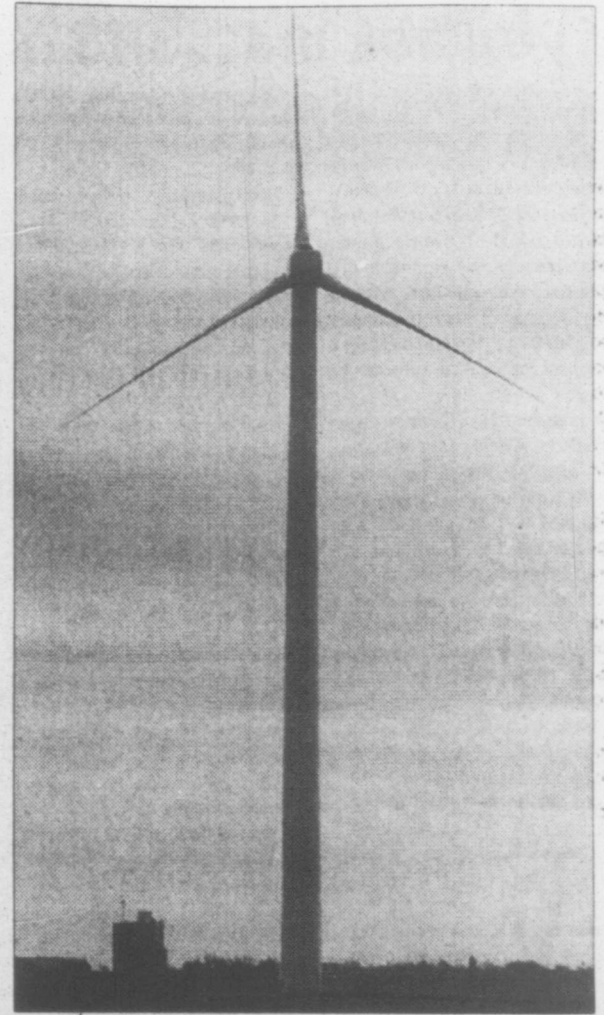
Texas A&M MASS Goal: Produce More Teachers

COLLEGE STATION - In an effort to affect scientific education positively, Texas A&M University's Colleges of Science and Education have teamed up to recruit and prepare the best and brightest students to become the next generation of mathematics and science educators through a program called MASS (Math and Science Scholars).


The program was initiated earlier this year in response to The Texas A&M University System's Regents Initiative for Excellence in Education, not to mention a pressing state and nationwide need for qualified mathematics and science teachers.

"The need for secondary teachers currently is at an all-time high, particularly in the areas of mathematics and science," says Timothy P. Scott, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Science and a faculty member in the Department of Biology. "As teachers ourselves, we feel strongly that there is no higher calling than this highly esteemed and noble profession."

Scott said the MASS program is ideal for students interested in pursuing a career teaching high school mathematics and/or




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If you ask me... and nobody did!

By Donna Burton

The kingdom of cats that lies in the northeast section of the City of Groom will never be the same. The king is dead. Felines are either rejoicing or weeping at the news, depending on which side of the throne they sat on, but one thing is for sure, they respected Old Hisser as they had never before or will after respect a monarch.

I first met Old Hisser when I moved my parents into a home that happened to be part of kingdom. His presence was not mentioned in the contract we signed or listed on the title as an asset. But we soon found that he would tolerate our existence only if we frequently left offerings of food on one of his many alters. At first I thought he may have belonged to the former owner. But I soon learned that this cantankerous devil belong to no man.

Old Hisser was a big mangy looking devil. He was the most lack luster shade of gray I have ever seen with a bit of a muddy white blaze. A violent youth had claimed most of one ear and he always had rummy looking eyes. Sometimes when pickens must have been hard to come by, he would get kind of rangy. Come spring he would fatten up and just select the most plump (and slow) birds for the kill. His nose was a road map of past battles. He must have lived by the theory that "chicks dig scars". I would say that he was a "bad boy" that mother kitties warn their young daughters about. Many a moonlight night one could hear his serenade to some youth unsuspecting female.

Old Hisser got his name because if you happened across his path too closely he would hiss like a bed of rattlesnakes. He raised my blood pressure more than once as we met in the dark in the carport. He wasn't the kind of wild cat that ran when he saw you coming his way. He gave only enough quarter to let you know that if you really wanted a fight, he was just the cat to give you one.

At first, I decided that he was a diseased menace and he must be caught and disposed of post haste.

He would watch me with a twitching tail as I placed something irresistible inside a trap. (I am a professional, you know). I swear I could almost see him smile after a week of daily putting fresh bait in the trap. He seemed to say ... "You poor misguided human. You must be simple if you think I am going to fall for that business!" After catching every pet in the neighborhood, I gave up.

Old Hisser and I finally developed a respect for each other. He sunned himself on Mom's front porch and in turn, I was allowed to walk by (as long as I didn't get too close), with only a short hiss in greeting. We would however have an occasional skirmish when he decided to beat up my mom's cat or have fresh sparrow on the veranda. Over time I grew to be kind of fond of the old grump. In the last year, I would at time kneel down and talk to him trying to coax him to let me give him a short ear scratch. He would talk back, somewhere between a hiss and meow, and let me know that there was no way he could allow that. But in his eyes I think I could see him remembering what it was like to have a friendly human touch him. I imagined that he

remembers some little girl cuddling him as a kitten or some older lady stroking his ears as he lay in her lap. You could tell that at one time some person had loved him. I wonder what went wrong.

Old Hisser made his rounds on Saturday night just as he had many times before. When he was done he came back to my folk's house and lay down on the old dog bed I put there for him. He curled up in a ball and went to sleep, never to wake up. His death was much more peaceful than his life, I suspect. I have to admit that I shed a tear or two for Old Hisser. I hope that he knew that there was at least one human who will miss him.

County

County Auditor Jacqueline West discussed the payment of workers compensation with the court. West suggested that money be moved from the budgeted line item of unemployment to cover the 41% increase in workers compensation. It was projected that the expense would escalate by 15%. A motion was passed to utilize the suggested funds.

West also presented the auditor's monthly report. A motion was passed to accept the account.

County Tax Assessor-Collector Barbara Cosper petitioned the court to act on a recent bill passed by the state legislature which authorizes taxing units other than school districts to exempt travel trailers from ad valorem taxation. A motion was passed to allow the exemption. Cosper stated applications must be



Sydney Ritter Earns Cinderella Crown

Miss Sydney Lee Jordan Ritter was in the 1st Annual Cinderella Pageant on Saturday, Jan. 26 in Pampa, Texas. She won Cinderella Baby. This includes personality, beauty, and photogenic. She received a crown, banner, trophy, and entry paid to the State Pageant in Houston. Those attending were Seth, Melissa, Hayden, and Carson Ritter, and Mimi (Mary

Treadwell).

Sydney is the granddaughter of Troy Ritter, Sharon Jones Britten, and Tony and Mary Treadwell. She is the great-granddaughter of Jack and Juandell Ritter Bivens, Troy and Betty Treadwell, Bobby and Darlene Jones, Jim and Carolyn Moraniec, and Janie Moraniec. She is the great great-granddaughter of Cleo Nix and Simona Gomez.

Federal Judge Sarah Tilghman Hughes (1896-1985) was the first woman judge to ever swear in a president, when she swore in Lyndon Johnson in 1963.

Never part without loving words to think of during your absence. It may be that you will not meet again in life.

—Jean Paul Richter

received from the taxpayer in order to receive the exemption for the 2002 tax year.

Sheriff Gary Robertson sought approval to promote Tim Dockery from field deputy to field sergeant effective February 1, 2002. A motion was passed to approve the advancement. Dockery will be replacing James Banks who voluntarily vacated the position effective January 1, 2002. Dockery will be at the level 29A salary.

Robertson reviewed the department's forfeited asset account. Balance of this statement is \$1,783.25.

Regular court recessed at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a public hearing to address redistricting of commissioner precinct boundaries due to population fluctuations following the recent census. Bob Bass of Allison, Bass and Associates presented that company's proposal to realign the boundaries that would create population adjustments to equal 1629 people in each precinct. Bass said that the recommendations would effect around 400 voters. A motion was passed to submit the proposed plan to the Department of Justice for final approval. Voters will be mailed new registration cards when the final paperwork is completed. No one will be effected during the March 12, 2002 primaries.

Court adjourned until February 11, 2002.

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Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch:
 The Louisiana Seafood Board Recipe Hotline at louisianaseafood.com.
 Gevalia at www.gevalia.com.
 Stewart Publishing at www.stewardhousepub.com.
 The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare at www.ncpssm.org.
 Dremel at www.dremel.com.
 The Real Estate Buyer's Council at www.rebac.net.
 Cakewalk software at www.cakewalk.com.
 New Orleans tourism information at www.neworleansonline.com.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Help is On the Way

In 2001, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded more than \$3.7 million in grants benefiting fire departments across Texas.

Top Benefiting Fire Departments (FD) and Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD):

FD/VFD	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Houston FD, Houston	\$492,695	Equipment
Sandy Oaks VFD, San Antonio	\$288,000	Vehicles, Personal Protective Equipment
Jarret VFD, Von Ormy	\$216,000	Vehicles
La Casita VFD, Garciasville	\$176,400	Equipment

Sources: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.