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The McLean News



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

Published Weekly
Thursday, February 22, 2001

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



P.T.A. Hosts "Remember The Past, Protect The Future" Poster Contest

The National PTA holds an environment poster contest every year. This year's theme was "Remember the Past, Protect the Future."

Twenty five students from Kindergarten to sixth grade at McLean participated in the contest. Posters were judged by grade. Each first place winner will now compete at district.

First place winners were as follows: Kindergarten- Cassondra Ingle; First grade-Britnie Cooper; Second grade-Clay Crockett; Third grade- Tucker Adams; Fifth grade-Kristen Odom;

Sixth grade-Brooke Seymour.

Others who participated were Nathan Brantley, Sarah Shackelford, Erin Vassey, Caitlin Mantooth, Sheri Haynes, Zachary Odom, Jessica Glazner, Tori Bybee, Ashley Russell, Becca Reyna, Jack Odom, Taylor Fish, Stephen Ingle, Kaci Maddox, Lucas Webb, Tamara Loya, David Jefferies, Steven Vassey, and Chari-Jarvis.

The posters were judged by John Holland, Mindy Reeves, and Ryan Swanson.

McLean Chamber Of Commerce May Disband

The McLean Chamber of Commerce will hold a special meeting on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the COC offices.

Due to the resignation of treasurer Rhonda Graham and lack of participation from members, the McLean COC is considering folding or going inactive.

The Chamber is responsible for the rodeo parade and dance. It also does the annual Haunted Hospital for the community during Halloween.

In the past the COC has replaced broken windows in the downtown area. They have placed the white benches that can be seen on main street and they

have remodeled the clinic in the hospital and turned it into offices for the EDC, the Gray County Sheriff's department, highway patrol, and the chamber.

"Right now we only have three people doing all the work," stated President Vonda Averett. "You can't run a COC with just three people, it is too hard. Unless we can get more people involved we will have to fold or go inactive. I don't want it to come to that, but I see no other choice."

If you would like to be involved in the McLean Chamber of Commerce, please come to the meeting on March 1.

P.T.A Previews New Program

The McLean PTA held a meeting on February 13. President, Heidi Gamble called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Terri Adams gave the invocation. Secretary, Shawn Bybee read the minutes from the last meeting and the last officers meeting. The motion to approve both sets of minutes passed unanimously.

Stacy Smart, treasurer reported a balance of \$457.56 in the checking account with more funds to be added as raffle tickets continued to sell during the meeting. She also announced that the UMW had donated \$25.00 to the PTA.

Staci Ladd, a nurse from Pampa and Julie McGee, the high school health teacher presented the program for the evening. Sex is... Worth the Wait was presented

to parents and teacher before it will be implemented into the health program in the spring.

The purpose of the program is to promote abstinence until marriage with a strong emphasis on the physical, emotional, and social benefits derived from this lifestyle.

Gray County is ranked 87 out of 254 counties in Texas for sexual activity among teens. The Worth the Wait program is designed to bring parents, schools, and churches together to implement the program into teens lives.

It's goals are to delay the onset of teen sexual activity thus reducing teen pregnancy and to enlist parents to become involved in dialogue with their children.

see PTA, pg 10

REMINDERS

THE FIRST DAY to apply for a place on the ballot for City Council and School Board was Feb 19. March 21, 2001 is the deadline.

SPRING BREAK will be held March 12-16.

THE SCHOOL Board will meet on Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

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

THE PIONEER Study Club will meet on March 1 in the home of Mary Emma Woods at 2:00 p.m.

THE CHAMBER OF Commerce will meet on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in keeping an active Chamber, please attend!

ADULT Volleyball will be held Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the old gym.

MOM'S CIRCLE Meet on Feb. 28th at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church.

LADIES BIBLE Study will be Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pam Quisenberry.

4-H CLOTHING Project Meet will be Feb. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

THE NATIONAL Honor Society will induct new honoraries on Feb. 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

THE MCLEAN Beauty Pageant is Feb. 24 at 7:00 in the HS. Auditorium.

THE 4-6TH GRADE Little Dribblers will participate in the Wheeler tournament on Feb. 23 and 24.

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

Look Who's New!

Brayden Bransford Reese Kingston was born February 9, 2001 to Amber Kingston of Amarillo. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19 3/4 inches long. He is welcomed at home by brothers Jeremy and Hunter. Grandparents are Bill and Billie Kingston of McLean. His great-grandmother is Geneva Kingston of McLean.

It's A Boy!

Jason and Shelly Henderson are proud to announce the birth of their son, Chism Lane Henderson. He was born on February 12th at 11:39 a.m. in Amarillo, Texas at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. Chism is welcomed by big sister Kayndra. His grandparents are Bill and Tricia Henderson of Vega and Judy Chism of Adrian.

Dick and Effie Everett Feted With Fiftieth Anniversary Party

On Valentines Feb. 14th the family of Dick and Effie threw a small surprise 50th celebration for the couple at their home. Those attending were Johnnie and Mary Ann Carpenter of McLean, Mike, Christie, Chelsey, and Trevor Townson of Canyon, Gary and Jenny Fry of McLean. It was quite and pleasant evening for all. Dick and Effie had originally planned to revisit the Honeymoon trip taken 50 years ago

and see Carlsbad Caverns again. The weather and a conflict with heifers calving caused a cancellation of their plans. Dick says love, respect, and trust of each other is what he feels are among the most important things to maintain in a marriage. Their daughter Jenny says they are the best parents in the whole world. Congratulations to Dick and Effie Lou on a job well done, and here's to many more.



Booster Club Discusses Fund Raisers

The McLean Elementary Jr. High Booster Club held a meeting on February 13. President, Deanna McClendon started the meeting off by passing

around the financial report. A total of \$497.00 has been spent on Accelerated Reading prizes. At the time of the meeting, \$3524.85 was the checking account

balance. Expenditures expected for the rest of the year are a Wonderland trip at approximately \$1000.00 and a trip for the top two students.

Fund raisers were discussed for the next school year. Possibilities include selling school supplies, See's candy with a Valentine theme, or a cash raffle.

It was decided that after Spring Break, the "Student of the Week" will receive a ribbon and certificate for the week and then their names will be put into a monthly

drawing for a food prize. The reason for the change is that food certificates are getting harder to find. "Students of the Week" will still have their picture in the paper.

Others in attendance were: Principle, Dick Crockett; Teachers, Cynthia Hauck, Judith Watkins, Lesa Greer, Renea Chambers, and Bobbi Stalls. Vonda Averett, Billie Ward, Tammy Hanes, Terri Adams, and Linda Smith were also present.

WANTED EVERYONE FOR NONDENOMINATIONAL COWBOY CHURCH

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A COWBOY TO ATTEND
WHAT: A nondenominational Cowboy Ministry Service
 Praise & Worship Service. Special Music
WHERE: Red River Steakhouse, McLean, Texas
 Cor: 3r 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

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Jerry Wilson P.A.



June Suggs, Receptionist

Dr. Craig Shaffer
 Medical Director

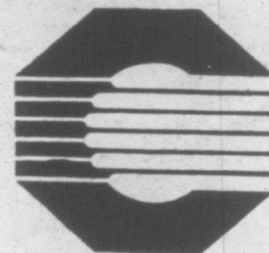
The Clinic will be closed on Friday February 23.

The Future of McLean

Lies In Our Young People!



Stormy Manns
 son of
 Gaylene & John
 Manns



MEMBER
 F.D.I.C.

**BANK OF
 COMMERCE**



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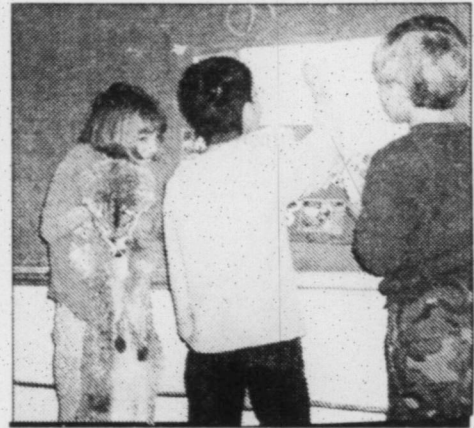
McLean Little Dribblers kick off season. See Schedule on this page.

Students Make Presentations

On February 2, 2001, the second grade class gave oral presentations to the first, third, and seventh grade classes. The presentation was of animals. The students went on the internet to find pictures, habitats, diet, and descriptions of their animal. Then they made a poster of their findings.

During their oral presentation, the student showed the class real skulls and skins of the animals. The animals presented were skunks, coyotes, bobcats, badger, beaver, and raccoons. The skulls and skins are kits from Amarillo College. Dan Porter has made the kits available through the Regional Science Collaborative.

The second grade class consists of Katy Acuna, Jacob Azzazi, Ashley Byron, Clay Crockett, Bradley Howard, Timothy Jeffries, Nicole McClendon, Joe Navarrete, John Navarrete, Holly Phillips, Zachary Seymour, Anthony Shackelford, Sarah Shackelford, Staci Smith, Samu Staton, and Erin Vassey.



LITTLE DRIBBLERS GAME AND TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 22-24	Wheeler Tournament 3rd - 6th grade Boys and Girls
MARCH 2	Samnorwood - Here - 6:00 p.m. 3-4 grade Boys 5-6 grade Boys 6th grade Girls
MARCH 8-10	Pt. Elliot Tournament Kindergarten - 6th grade Boys and Girls
MARCH 15-17 (Spring Break)	Miami Tournament Coaches: Call Cathy if you want to participate
MARCH 22-24	Samnorwood Tournament Kindergarten - 6th grade Boys and Girls
MARCH 29-31	McLean Tournament Kindergarten - 6th grade Boys and Girls

Each parent will need to bring a six pack of Coke, Dr. Pepper, or Sprite for the concession stand.



McLean Beauty Pageant

February 24th At 7:00 P.M. High School Auditorium
Beauty is the Courage To Try. Good Luck Ladies!



Tina & Jacque
Riley

Bulch & Carla
Kirkland

James & Charlotte
Hetley

Kenneth & Wanda
Fosner

Don & Cynthia
Hauack

Mary Dwyer

Steve & Diane
Dempster

Mark & Kim
Cadra

Tom & Bron
Boklar

T.D. & Teresa
Simmons

Dan & Sasha
Fish

Back Row-Bethany Rogers, Amanda Hauack, Ashley Fish, Nikki Hetley, Danielle Dempster
Front Row-Tiffany Kirkland, Cindy Cadra, Shaley Sigel, Kendall Newton, Randi Riley,
Kaitera Roston. Not pictured: Sarah Sawyee

Pioneer Study Club Meets In Church of Christ Annex

The Pioneer Study Club met, Thursday, February 15th, in the Church of Christ annex with Ela Mae Reyna as hostess. Delicious sliced fruits and dip, banana bread and angel food cake were served to members and guest. Members present were: Patti Brass, Jerry Corbin, Mary Dwyer, Mickey Jackson, Wanda Lamb, Ruth Magee, Sherri Martindale, Zelda McClellan, Beverly Odom, Mary Powell, Lynn Reeves, Mindy Reeves, Ella Mae Reyna, Pat Stubbs, Ruth Trew, Nama Webb, Mary Emma Woods. Guest were Sally Bohlar, Pat Kennedy, Lyn Moore, and Jane Overshiner.

Roll call was answered with a favorite memory made with one's children,

grandchildren, or nieces and nephews. A point to remember: Ideas are funny things; they don't work unless you do.

Patti Brass introduced guest speaker, Pat Kennedy of Pampa. Pat has served on the Pampa School Board for the past eight years and hopes that she has help make a difference for the district's school children and faculty.

Ms. Kennedy is a leader for "Moms in Touch," a program for mothers meeting to pray for their children and schools. Ms. Kennedy has helped with establishing several Moms in Touch groups in the Panhandle. The purpose of Moms in Touch is to intercede for our children through prayer and to pray that our schools may be guided by biblical values and high moral standards. Desire is for God to raise up mothers to intercede for every school around the world and goal is to see ever school in the USA covered with prayer by the end of 2003.

"Moms in Touch" is for mothers, grandmothers, an aunt, or friend who is willing to pray for a specific child and school, preschool through college. Moms in Touch desire to maintain a positive relationship with schools and is not a lobby group regardless of how worthy the cause. The program is an opportunity for spiritual growth and learning to pray. Moms in Touch meetings are a time of praise, a time of silent confession, and a time of intercession for a child.

If you are not praying for your child, who is? Next club meeting will be in the home of Mary Emma Woods March 1st with Ruth Trew presenting a program.

Goog Neighbor Pharmacy Topics By Don Biggers, RPH



PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The optimal amount of Vitamin C is 500 mg per day. A recent study suggests that if you take more than 500 mg of this potent antioxidant on a regular basis, you may actually cause genetic damage that can lead to rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions. Also, too much Vitamin C can cause excess iron absorption, a risk factor for heart disease. Please don't take too much Vitamin C daily. However, if you are feeling the onset of a cold, it is safe to take up to 3000 mg daily -- 1000 mg at regular intervals with food -- until the cold has subsided then return to your regular dose of 500 mg daily.

Next week we will discuss St. John's Wort (Hypericum Perforatum) Extract. A natural anti-depressant herb available without a prescription.

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256-2782
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Sat. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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Obituary

CECIL SEANEY

McLean- Cecil clay Seaney, 73, died Thursday Feb. 15, 2001.

Services were held Feb. 17, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in McLean. Rev. Thacker Haynes officiated and was assisted by Daryl Wynn. Burial services were held at Hillcrest Cemetery at McLean, Tx.

Cecil was born to George W. and Agnes Seaney July 9, 1927 at Silverton, Texas. He had lived in the McLean area 30 years. He was a WWII Veteran, serving in the Navy Air Corp. He married Anita Henley Dec. 17, 1966 at Miami, Texas. He had been a cowboy and cattleman all his life.

Survivors include his wife Anita; 1 daughter, Susie Wynn of Booker, Tx; 2 sons, Jim Seaney of Roy N.M. and David Seaney of Ft. Worth, Tx; 1 sister, Donny Garrison of Silverton, Tx; 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

VOYNE GRIFFIN

Pampa- Voyne Thomas Griffin, 91, died Sunday Feb. 11, 2001.

Services were held Feb. 14, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. in the Lamb Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. J.C. Burt officiated the service. Burial services were held at the Alanreed Cemetery, Alanreed, Tx.

Mr. Griffin was born to T.T. Griffin and Patricia Brooks Griffin July 9, 1909. At Goree, Texas, he married Emma Lou McGee Nov. 25, 1937 at McLean. He was an outstanding artist and painted houses, signs, landscapes, and made neon signs. He was a mason and he belonged to masonic lodge #889 for 50 years. He had lived in Pampa since 1937.

Survivors include his wife, and 2 cousins Gail Cox and Carolyn McCurley.

Apology Offered To Readers

Dear McLean Readers, How can I say sorry any other way, but I am very, very sorry. I know you must all think that I am pretty stupid to make such foolish mistakes but what can I say...it happens. My deepest most humble apologies to first of all Terri Adams for having to listen to complaints that should be directed at me, secondly to Mr. and Mrs. Evert and the Fry's. I could (and have, privately) explain how this kind of mistake happened but it would not make much sense to someone who is not in the business.

All I can say is that anytime you have someone new on the job, it is impossible to tell

them everything they need to know in a week or two. Not that this was the all the new persons fault, I should have caught it.

Everyone makes mistakes, unfortunately, we print ours in black and white for all to see.

We do our best to give you an accurate accounting of the news and events. Sometimes our best is just not up to par.

Again, I am very sorry that this happened and I hope it will not happen again but chances are...it probably will.

Thank you, Donna Burton, Editor The Groom News



McLean Care Center News

McLean Care Center Sunday morning activities began with Sunday School with the Methodist Friendship Class. In the afternoon they attended church services held by the Rev. Thacker Haynes and his congregation.

Monday was nail care time with Bingo in the afternoon. Betty Lowe had Bingo. The residents got bananas for refreshments.

Tuesday was spent with Residents filling out Valentine cards and finishing preparations for the King and Queen Coronation.

The Residents had a special Valentine social Wed. morning. Lois Myers, Ed and Rita Franke presented music and entertainment. Lois held the discussion session.

Wednesday afternoon

was the Methodist Ice Cream Social. Callien Meitel, Grace Glenn, Sam Haynes, and Carl Dwyer served the ice cream. Sam entertained us with his harmonica.

Friday morning was barber shop for the men and nail care for all. In the afternoon, the residents played dominoes.

Saturday afternoon was our Valentine King and Queen Coronation. The candidates are voted on entirely by the residents. The Queen this year is Irene Pakan and the King is Bill Anderson.

Refreshments of cake, ice cream, and punch were served by volunteers Betty Lowe, Lavern Back, Margie Fish, Betty Morgan, and Louise and George Watson. The King and Queen corsages were made and donated by the newly opened McLean Flowers and

Gifts. Betty Heathington made the Valentine's cake.

I appreciate everything everyone has done to make things special for the residents. Without all of your help, my job would be impossible.

Four of our residents are back from the hospital: Irene Pakan, Robert William, Lawrence Kurtz, and Helen Simmons. Glynda Martin and Isabel Cousins are still in the hospital. We wish them a very speedy recovery. picture

PTA

After the presentation, Hedi made the motion for the PTA to pay for milk for the TAAS students. It passed unanimously.

She reminded everyone that the PTA will have a bake sale on April 12th at the Taylor Mart.

A drawing was held for the high school students who made 90 and above for the semester. Shaley Steel won a McLean Tigers chair donated by Woodgroup. Nathaniel Roberts won movie tickets for the 80 and above drawing.

Becky Fish was one of the big raffle winners. She won a Southwest airline roundtrip ticket donated by B&B Racing. Kelly Fothergill was the other big winner, he won a night for two in Amarillo with a hotel, movie and meal.

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



NOTICE OF CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION APPLICATION TPDES REGISTRATION NO. WQ0001813-000

APPLICATION. McLEAN FEEDYARD, LTD., P.O. Box 630, McLean Texas 79057 has applied to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for an amendment to TPDES Registration No. 01813 to authorize changes in the application of waste/wastewater. The maximum capacity will remain at 25,000 head. The application was received by TNRCC on January 20, 2000. No discharge of pollutants into the waters in the state is authorized by this registration except under chronic or catastrophic rainfall conditions. All waste and wastewater will be beneficially used on agricultural land.

The existing beef cattle facility is located approximately 1/4 mile east of US Highway 273 at a point that is 3.7 miles south of the intersection of US Highway 273 and Interstate Highway 40 in McLean, Donley County, Texas. The facility is located in the drainage area of the Salt Fork Red River in Segment No. 0222 of the Red River Basin.

The application is available for inspection by the public during normal business hours at the Lovett Memorial Library, 302 North Main Street, McLean Texas 79057.

The Executive Director of the TNRCC has prepared a draft registration which, if approved, would establish the parameters and limitations within which the facility must operate.

PUBLIC COMMENT. Written public comments may be submitted to the Office of Chief Clerk, at the address provided in the information section below, within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice. The Executive Director will consider all relevant information pertaining to whether the applicant meets the requirements for the registration and will issue a written determination as to any final action on the application for registration and a response to all comments.

INFORMATION. Written public comments should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC705, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087. For additional information, about the application or the procedure for public participation in the registration process, individual members of the general public may contact the Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040. General information regarding the TNRCC can be found at our web site at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.

Issued: FEB 08 2001


LaDonna Castañeda
LaDonna Castañeda, Chief Clerk
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

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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 our 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.



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Century 21
Pampa Realty, Inc.
Business 669-0007
Home 669-1863

CONVENIENCE STORE
Business for Sale
Established, fully equipped convenience store business for sale. Good merchandise, lottery, and money order sales. Can combine your existing business with ours. Owner financing is available. Buyer must operate business himself or with family. Send a summary of your interest in c/o The Groom News PO Box 460, Groom, TX. 79039.

GRANDVIEW - HOPKINS
Independent School District will be taking applications for a maintenance position. If you are interested, you may call 669-3831 for an application. Applications for the position will be received through March 2, 2001. The District is also seeking bus drivers.

HOW'S YOUR Credit Record? Federal law allows you to correct your credit record for free. A public service message from The Groom News and the Federal Trade Commission.

JENNY'S ALTERATIONS
Mending & Custom Sewing (Over 25 years experience). 408 Clarendon, McLean. Call for Appt. 779-3223.

I'M MAD...at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475.

NEEDED: CNA's, 6/2 shift and 2/10 shift. If certified \$7.00 with a differential of \$1.25 for evenings. If not certified will train. Contact Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5121, Claude.

CUSTOM CRP Planting and Discing. Call Don Smith at (806) 248-7443.

NEEDED: LVN's, 6/2 shift and 2/10 shift, \$11.25 with a differential on evenings of \$1.25. Contact Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5121, Claude.

HOUSE OR FOUNDATION SETTLING? Cracks in brick or walls? Doors won't close? Call Childers Brothers Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo, Tx.

OUTREACH Health Services needs a provider in Groom for 16.5 hours per week. Call 1-800-800-0697.

WILL CARE for your elderly loved one in my assisted living. 24 hour supervision. Call Connie Dwyer. 806-256-2948 or 806-447-9209.

McLean Birthdays Anniversaries
February 22 - Donnie Smith, Jordan Herring.
February 23 - February 24 - Sally Worsham Bohlar, George Watson, Brick Fry, Maggie Ruth Johnston, Julie Reynolds.
February 25 - Dekki Crockett, Jeffrey Lee, Leo Averett.
February 26 - Stella Lee, Nathaniel Roberts, Talitha Newton.
February 27 - Lillie Mae Williams, Ruben Flores.
February 28 - Mike Acuna.
February 29 - Mike Harkins.

CHILD CARE Worker needed. Call the First Baptist Church in McLean (806) 779-2175

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In McLean on Tue. & Thurs At Elizabeth's

669-0207-Pampa

McLean Church Directory

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 Mantooth 779-3207
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am
Sunday Evening Worship 7 pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



TexSCAN Week of February 18, 2001

DRIVERS WANTED
300+ ENTRY LEVEL drivers needed! 38k-42k potential! No experience necessary. Tuition reimbursement available. Over 40 trucking companies to choose from. Call today! CDL Delivers, 1-800-260-0294.
COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced, 1-800-333-8595. EOE.
DRIVER: COVENANT TRANSPORT: No CDL - No problem 1-800-806-5549 * Teams start up to 46 cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. Experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. Graduate students 1-800-338-6428.
DRIVER - IT PAYS to start with us. Call SRT today 1-877-244-7293 or 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY *Great pay *Paid weekly *Excellent benefits *New equipment *\$1,250 sign-on bonus *Student graduates welcome. Southern Refrigerated Transport.
DRIVERS 2-DAY ORIENTATION. Great pay, Miles, support staff. Home at your request. Class A CDL required. We'll be there for you. Continental Express, 1-800-727-4374.
DRIVERS: ALLIED VAN LINES has openings in electronics and trade shows. Class A CDL with 1 year OTR experience. Tractor purchase available. Call 1-800-634-2200, Dept. ATXS.
DRIVERS - CFI HIRING OTR drivers company/student/owner operators. Company with one year experience start at \$32 cpm. Owner/Operators start at \$86 all miles (w/fuel surcharge). Also ask about our 2-week spouse training program in an automatic transmission truck. Call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE.
DRIVERS: NORTH AMERICAN Van Lines has openings in logistics, relocation, blanket wrap and flatbed fleets. Minimum of 3 months OTR experience required. Tractor purchase available. Call 1-800-348-2147, Dept. TXS.
DRIVERS: OWNER/OPERATORS, Fleetwood Transportation is now leasing. Great lease package, we can help you loaded. Also need company drivers. 1-888-276-9923, www.ftwd.net.
DRIVERS: SOLOS UP to 45cpm, teams up to 41cpm. Contractors 81cpm all miles. Lease options available (no money down), fuel incentives and more! Call Burlington Motor Carriers, 1-800-583-9504.
TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED. Cattle hauling or reefer experience necessary. Must be at least 25 years old and have a current class A CDL. Cattle haulers call Terry at 1-800-234-9714. Reefers drivers call Maria at 1-800-234-9714.
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The Groom News

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Volume 74 Number 41

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, February 22, 2001

School Board Officially Takes Action To Cut Ag And Band Programs To Half Day Curriculum



Groom School Board officially curtailed the Vocational Ag program and the Band program at Thursday nights meeting.

The official process included motions to declare a financial exigency, (a word meaning the pressing lack of something... in this case...money). The next step in the process will be either a resignation from teachers Burk and Porter or a non-renewal of contract. If the teachers in question want the position at 1/2 time they will then resign with the understanding that they will be offered the employment for the part-time program.

If either of the teachers were to choose not to resign, the Board would then opt to not renew their contracts in accordance with

"Reduction In Force" laws.

In a later agenda item, Larry Porter, the band director offered his resignation. He will be offered the part-time contract. Charles Burk has until the normal contract time in March to make his decision.

According to Superintendent Wilson in an earlier discussion during the "Open Forum" session of a previous meeting, if Burk decides against the part-time contract, then the board would seek to employ someone qualified to teach the program, part-time.

In other agenda items, the annual report was given on board member training. Every board member is required to attend training each year. Those receiving the

required number of hours are Tony Britten and Clifton Britten. Those who did not complete the required training are Dennis Babcock, Tim Case, Barry Fields and Kelvin Ollinger.

Superintendent Wilson reported on energy usage and commented on a report from Energy Systems Laboratory. Energy expense is up 313 % from last year. A report from Texas A & M University concerning the school lack of savings on energy usage is pending. Wilson hopes the report will shed some light on why the school is not saving as much energy as predicted by the architect of the re-fit program.

Sandra Hayes, Groom School Janitor, tendered her resignation. The Board accepted it.

At 7:45, the Board went into executive session to discuss the principal's contract and evaluation. At 8:45 the board returned with an offer of a one year extension to Mr. Noack's current contract at his present salary plus housing.

During the principal's report, Noack requested the board approve application for an innovative course named A+ Technology. Noack stated that the course would qualify students to do minor work on software and hardware problems with computers.

Books are expected to cost in the range of \$70.00 each and a teacher will need to be certified to train the students in this vocational program. Superintendent Wilson stated that they

would be looking for grant money to pay for the training which could cost as much as \$1,000 depending on where the course was held.

Noack also presented the board a list of disciplinary actions and upcoming events. He stated that enrollment is currently at 163.

Business Manager Joyce Hutsell presented the financial reports.

All members of the board were present. Visitors included Jiggs Britten, Curtis Downs and Donna Burton, representing the Groom News.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ASH WEDNESDAY is Feb. 28th.

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.

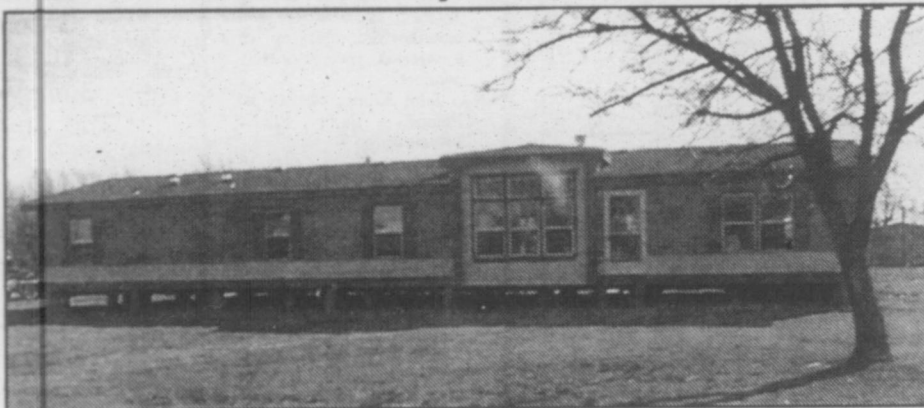
SPRING BREAK is scheduled for March 12-16 for Groom ISD.

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

DON'T FORGET to Attend the "Open Meeting" workshop on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center.

ATTENTION: Boys, ages 11-17! Come to an organizational meeting for a Boy Scouts troop at the Community Center on Feb. 24.

New Homes Go Up On GEDC Lots



Groom Economic Development Corporation will welcome two families on the completion of these homes. Spaces available for more families who qualify for free lots owned by the GEDC.

BOHR, DAVIS, & CONRAD NAMED TO ALL-DISTRICT TEAM

Three Groom girl basketball players were named to the All-District team as announced by Groom Coach Sumrall.

Candace Bohr and Krisanne Davis were named to the 1st Team All-District. Bohr plays under the basket and has lead the team in scoring much of the year. Davis is point and works hard setting up plays and working the ball under the basket.

Amanda Conrad was named to the second team All-District. Conrad is one of the team members who make things happen with her ball handling and steals.

All three girls will be returning next year, Bohr and Davis as seniors and Conrad as a junior. Congratulations to all the girls on a great season and a special salute to these top players!



Groom EDC is hard at work and it shows! Two new homes are going up thanks to the hard work of all the members, past and present. Nothing happens overnight, but patience does pay off. Both homes are on lots given to the new owners by GEDC after they met criteria for new homes.

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The Groom News

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Please Note Correction:
Groom Track Meet will be on March 10.

Thank You Card

Thank you all for caring as our mother was ill and passed away. The cards, phone calls, and prayers were wonderful. We will treasure them always.
The Family of Ethel Gillham
Virginia & Billy Jones
Mary & Rex Bagwell
Earl & Sue Gillham

Local Happenings

Jarret Weinheimer will graduate this spring instead of midterm as previously reported. The school sent the wrong information out. He is, however, an honors student at Texas A&M University.

Card of Thanks
We want to express our sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for your many expressions of sympathy in our loss. Thank you for ever visit, call, the flowers, the food, the prayers, and all you did to make this time easier for us. The people of Groom are the best, and we thank each of you.
The Family of E.N. "Bud" Babcock

Groom School now has a web site. The URL (address) is www.groomisd.net.

2000-2001 Groom ISD School Calendar
March 12-16 Holiday
April 13-16 Holiday
April 13 Weather Make Up Day
May 11 Weather Make Up Day
May 25 Graduation
May 28 Teacher In Service

Sheriff's Report

There were 7 persons booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of February 12 through February 18, 2001. Currently there are 10 persons incarcerated in this jail and 10 additional prisoners being held in other jurisdictions.

Arrest made this week include:
Carra Rose, age 42 of McAlester, OK.- Driving While Intoxicated- 3rd offense.

Raymond Cross, age 40 of Dorchester, MA.- Possession of marijuana greater than 50 pounds, but less than 2000 pounds.

Wayne Clarke, age 32 of St. Albans, NY.- Possession of marijuana greater than 50 pounds, but less than 2000 pounds.

Jeffery Hunt, age 38 of White Deer, Tx.- Criminal trespass and resisting arrest.

Barry Osborne, age 30 of Amarillo, Tx.- Driving While intoxicated and unauthorized carrying of a weapon and disorderly conduct.

John Knipp, age 18 of Pampa, Tx.- Public Intoxication.

Justin Adams, age 18 of Pampa, Tx.- Public Intoxication.

Groom Birthdays Anniversaries

February 22 - Mrs. M. B. Bolden, Chy Phillips.

February 23 - Gary Wayne Friemel, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby E. Pool (A).

February 24 - Louis Lee Barkley, Robbie Harris, LaDonna Walker Cortez, James & Janice Weinheimer (A).

February 25 - Mrs. N.B. Helton, Trevor Jordan Friemel.

February 26 - Katy Leann Britten, Jo Ann Musser, Michele Bohr, Kevin Noack.

February 27 - Juandell Ritter Bivens, Mrs. Kenneth W. Babcock, Howard G. Britten, Clinton Wakefield.

February 28 - Matthew Keith Fields, Mrs. Harris E. Howard, Gary Don Davis, Ellis Stapp.

February 29 - Erma Ray Rutherford, Mary Spencer.

Groom School Lunch Menu

Groom School Menu
Feb. 26- Mar. 2

Monday Breakfast: Cold cereal, muffins, juice, milk. Lunch: Fajitas, shredded lettuce, fresh apple slices with caramel sauce, milk.

Tuesday Breakfast: Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, juice, milk. Lunch: Lasagna, salad, fried okra, fruit cocktail, bread sticks, milk.

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

milk. Lunch: Steak or Fish, green beans, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, chocolate cake, milk.

Thursday Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, bacon, juice, milk. Lunch: Soft tacos, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, yogurt, milk.

Friday Breakfast: Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk. Lunch: Pizza, salad, pears, crackers, milk.

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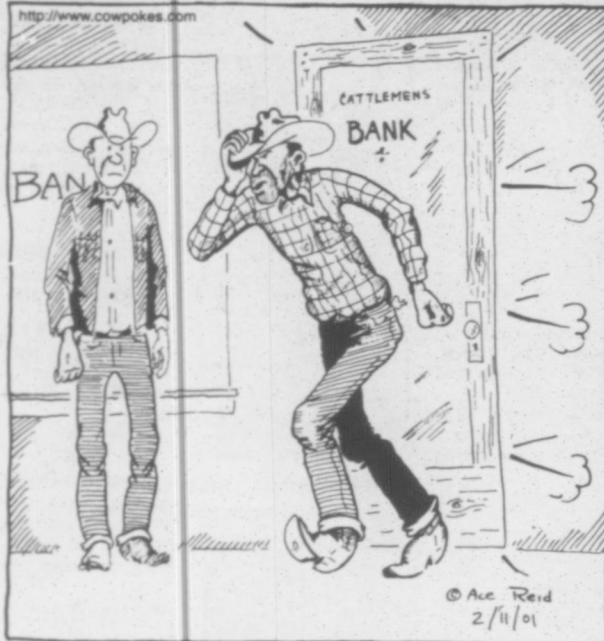
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Groom Tigers Prepare For Play-Offs With Game Against Texline

By Brad Rainer
The Tigers continued to make preparations for the playoffs by taking on Texline in a prep game for both teams. We began the game very well as we made 8 out of 11 shots in the first quarter for 22 points and we only allowed 6 for Texline. We cooled off after that but played well throughout the game and came away with the victory. Our next game is the bi-district match-up with Happy. They are so big that our defense and rebounding as well as patience on

offense will play a key role in the ball game. In the Texline game, Dewayne Gray had 22 points, 4-3 pointers, 13 rebounds, 2 steals, 4 assists, 1 blocked shot, and took a charge. Doug Fields had 1 point, 1 rebound, and 1 steal. Garret Britten had 6 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 2 assists, and 1 blocked shot. Russell Conrad had 11 points, 3-3 pointers, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, and 2 assists. Clay Britten had 9 points, 1-3 pointer, 5 rebounds, and 1 blocked shot. Cody Babcock had 1 rebound.

City Council Opens Bids For Monitoring Wells

The regular monthly City Council Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 13, 2001 with the following members and visitors present: Mayor, Joe Homer; Aldermen, Ellis Stapp, W.H. Ollinger, Don Case, Kenneth Weller, Mary Brooks; Visitors, Donna Burton, Dwight Brandt, and Mary Sue Lyles. Dwight Brandt, city engineer, opened and totaled the 2 bids received for the drilling of the 3 monitoring wells to be constructed around the playa lake that is adjacent to the sewer station. These wells will be drilled according to regulations approved by

the TNRCC for ground water monitoring. The bid from Turnkey

Drilling Service in Sunray was \$76,049.10 and the bid from Peterson Drilling in Amarillo was \$73,927.50. Mr. Brandt recommended that the city accept the low bid from Peterson Drilling. Kenneth Weller moved and Ellis Stapp seconded the motion to accept the low bid from Peterson per Mr. Brandt's recommendation. The motion was passed.

The motion was passed to set the homestead exemption for persons over 65 at \$9000.00 for

2001. The motion was passed that an election to elect a mayor and 2 aldermen, all for 2 year terms, be ordered to be set on Saturday, May 5, 2001.

Complaints about the growing problems with cats in Groom was discussed. It was felt that since a policy is in effect that deals with animals that create a public nuisance, upon receipt of a signed complaint from an individual, the animal control officer would set traps and attempt to catch the stray cats. If the owner can furnish proof of vaccination and pay the fine, the animal will be released to them.

Any cat caught by the animal control officer will be held for 3 days before it is disposed of.

The motion was passed to set the next city council meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. Marcus Norris, Amarillo city attorney, will present a program on "Open Meeting Laws" before the meeting begins. Anyone

who is interested is invited to attend.

The bills and financial statement were presented. The motion was passed to approved the bills and the financial statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Ann Nidey To Exhibit At Square House

Ann Nidey of Amarillo will bring "Different Views" to the Carson County Square House Museum in Panhandle, TX, with her exhibit of prehistoric rock art photographs and pastels. The exhibit will be displayed in the Hazelwood Gallery at the Museum through march 2001.

Nidey moved from Decatur, TX; to the Panhandle in 1953 and says its beauty-the sunrises, sunsets, canyons, mesas, and rolling plains, stunned her. She started her interest in photography as she explored her new home. "I hiked, camped, climbed, drove, and rode horseback over as much of the Panhandle as I could reach," Nidey said.

A lifelong interest in the American West and drawing led her to take art lessons in 1993. She uses photography as an inspiration for most of her painting. "I paint and photograph because I must," Nidey said. "I need to record the glories

of the sunrise, the evidence of lives past and present, and the beauty around us," she said.

Nidey first discovered rock art in the 1960's while on vacation in the southwest. Over the years, she has located and photographed rock art in the Texas Panhandle, Southeastern Colorado, and most recently in New Mexico. "I never cease to be amazed by its beauty and mysterious nature," Nidey said.

Nidey's painting and photographs have been accepted in shows in Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. She has won awards for some of her pieces. Nidey is a member of the Amarillo Fine Arts Association, Lone Star Pastel Society, and the Tri-State Artists' Association.

There will be a reception at the Museum honoring Nidey on Sunday, February 11, 2001, from 2:30 until 4:00 p.m. The public is

welcome to attend. Her exhibit will be available for viewing from February 1-March 31, 2001. The Museum is open from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Pampa Concert Season Opens

The Pampa Community Concert Association's 2001-2002 Season Membership Campaign is currently underway with a particularly attractive series of concerts scheduled.

The membership campaign will end June 1. Membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families and \$15 for students.

Artist scheduled for the new season include Festival of Four with award winning recording artist Richard Patterson joining forces with one of America's leading flute soloists, Viviana Guzman, to present an array of musical delights from

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker to Andean Mountain music. The beauty and potential of the flute and guitar together have inspired audiences and critics everywhere.

Another show for the Pampa group features Christiania Pegoraro, pianist. She has been called "an artist of the higher caliber" following her stunning 1996 debut at Lincoln Center.


Also scheduled is Linda Wang, praised by critics as "among the premier young violinists of the world" and for her "masterful technique" and "singing jubilant tone."

A concert by the Rhythm Kings, known for their polished performances of American popular music from the '20s, '30s, and '40s. The Manhattan Rhythm Kings have gained a large and enthusiastic following across the country. This will be a joint presentation with the Borger Community Concert Association and will be held in The M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Call (806) 665-0343 or mail checks to P.O. Box 1935, Pampa, TX 79066. Officers and directors of the organization are Ruth Richart, president; Ronnie Holmes, presentation chairman; Glenette Goode, membership chairman; Nancy Hahn, treasurer; Lilith Brainard, membership secretary;

Evelyn Johnson, corresponding secretary; and Bobbye Combs, publicity.

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Ettes Lose To Nazareth, End Season 20-8



Above Candace Bohr scrambles for an in-bound pass while Swiftettes number 10 does her best to stop her. Right Krisanne Davis goes up for a rebound in the bi-district game.

Groom girls ended their basketball ball season last week when they lost out to Nazareth.

"The girls played a good game," stated Coach Chris Sumrall, "I am very proud of them. Offensively, we did not have a good a night as we needed. With a team like Nazareth you must be able to score. Defensively we played very well."

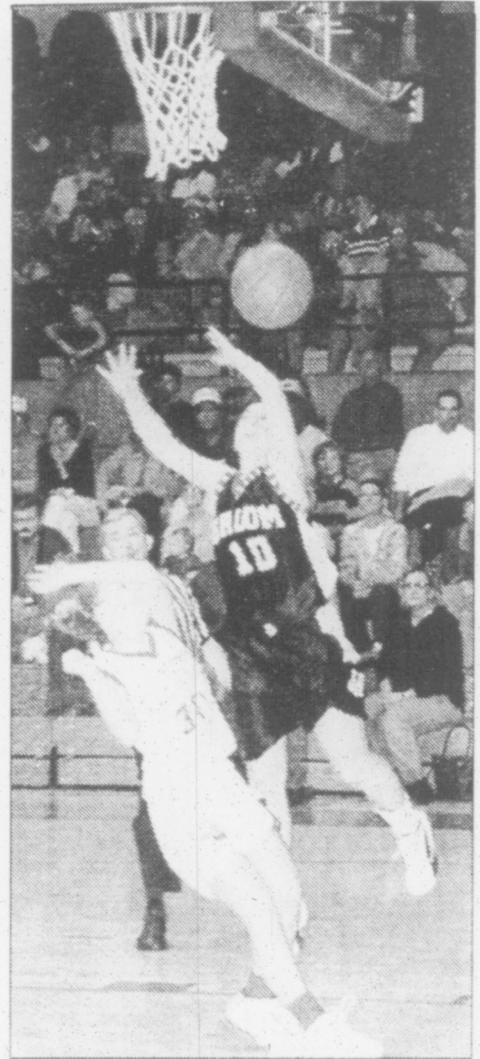
Amanda Martin twisted her ankle and the Ettes were forced to make adjustments. They played a very good second half.

Candace Bohr lead the scoring with 21 points.

Krisanne Davis scored 9 points. Nichole Barnett, Amanda Conrad and Jill Britten each scored 2. Lauren Crowell and Cassie Ashford scored 1.

The Ettes ended their season with a 20-8 record. They will be returning the entire team next year as they have no seniors graduating.

"I am very proud of this team and what they have accomplished," stated Chris Sumrall, "I am looking forward to next year."



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**GOOD LUCK IN
BI-DISTRICT PLAY-OFFS**

4th and 5th Grade Cagers Strut Their Stuff



Groom 4th and 5th grade P.E. classes demonstrated their basketball skills at half time during Groom's last home game.

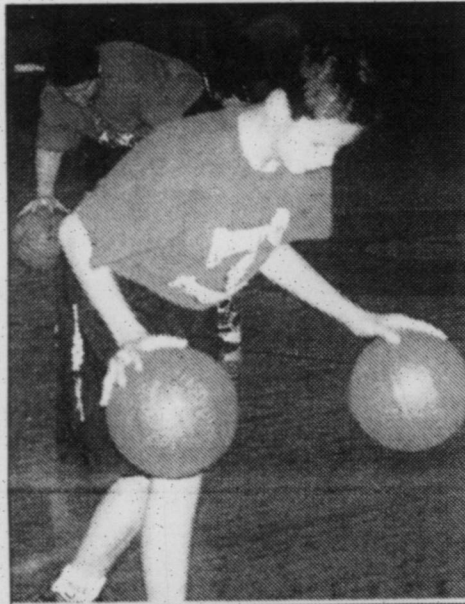
55th Annual St. Patrick's Celebration In Shamrock

Shamrock's 55th Annual Patrick's Celebration will be underway Friday March 16th through Sunday March 18th in Shamrock, Texas. The festivities begin on Friday night with the Annual Kick Off Banquet. The parade, Miss Irish Rose Pageant, and dance are on Saturday. Sunday is fun packed beginning with the Lad n' Lassie Pageant. A Bull Buckout and Bull Fight (2:00 p.m., Shamrock Rodeo Grounds), featuring four World Champion Bull Fighters, will be the grand finale of an exciting and fun weekend.

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the legendary Route 66. To many, Route 66 conjures up images of drive-in theatres, fast cars, and great music. In honor of our little piece of this famous American highway, the St. Patrick's Association has brought back one of the Texas Panhandle's most popular bands of the 1960's. The Motifs, formerly the Velasquez Brothers, played dances for audiences all over the Panhandle in the mid to late 60's and are coming back home to entertain at Friday's Kick Off Banquet (6:30 p.m., Community Center) and Saturday's dance (9:00 p.m., Community Center). The Motifs, now residing in Reno, Nevada, are one of Nevada's top show groups and will prove to be one of the most exciting, crowd pleasing groups you will ever see. Join us at the Celebration March 16th, 17th, and 18th. For more information call the St. Patrick's Association at (806) 256-2501 or email stpats@shamrocktx.net.

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Texas Senate... Week In Review



Dr. Carol Hillhouse Receives Award At Southwest Veterinary Symposium

Dr. Carol Hillhouse of Panhandle received the 2001 Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year award during the 2001 Southwest Veterinary Symposium, held February 1-4 in Houston. She was also certified as a Diplomate by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) specializing in Canine and Feline Practice.

Dr. Hillhouse graduated from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984 and went to practice for a couple of years in Nacogdoches. She and her husband, Dr. Joe Hillhouse, then moved to Panhandle, where they built the Carson County Veterinary Clinic. The clinic is the only veterinary clinic in Carson County.

Dr. Hillhouse has become well known by her peers for offering in-

depth medical work-ups and often sees referrals from her colleagues in the region. She works hard to obtain continuing education and to stay current in her medical training.

Dr. Hillhouse has been an instructor in the veterinary assistant program at Amarillo College. She also has been a popular speaker at all grade levels in several area school districts. She has helped coordinate the local pet adoption program and serves on the Panhandle ISD board of trustees.

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association founded in 1903, is a professional association composed of some 3,000 veterinarians committed to protecting the public health, promoting high education, ethical and moral standards within the veterinary profession, and educating the public about animal health and its relationship to human health.

Senators Announce Bill to Overhaul Indigent Criminal Defense System

AUSTIN - Three senators announced the Texas Fair Defense Act on Wednesday, a bill with five other Republican and Democratic co-authors that would overhaul the indigent criminal defense system in Texas.

"The harsh reality is that poor defendants get a poor defense in Texas," said Houston Sen. Rodney Ellis, one of the bill's co-authors. "Over the past two years, we have gathered more and more evidence that the system needs to be reformed. The Texas Fair Defense Act is a moderate step toward ensuring fairness in our criminal justice system."

The Texas Fair Defense Act has been filed as Senate Bill (SB) 7.

"When George Bush was being sworn in (in January), I presided over an execution," said Arlington Sen. Chris Harris, a co-author of SB 7. "During that 32 minutes, I had a lot of time to think. I did a lot of soul searching."

As President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Harris fulfills the duties of the governor when the governor and lieutenant governor are out of the state.

"I voted for every law and order bill that's come through the legislature in the time I've been here. And I will continue to do that. I have voted to uphold the death penalty every time it's come up," Harris said. "But I want to be sure that any defendant that we in this state are going to put to death or that we are going to sentence for a major felony, which follows them for the rest of their lives and a prison term, was given adequate representation."

Lubbock Sen. Robert Duncan, another co-author of the bill, said SB 7 is "important if Texas is to have a fair system of criminal

justice. "The integrity of our entire criminal justice system is at risk when adequate legal representation of indigent defendants is in question," Duncan said.

"This bill is a step to ensure that all persons, regardless of economic status, are equally represented under the law."

Ellis said SB 7 focuses on four critical issues: timely appointment of counsel; the method of counsel appointment by courts; the reporting of information about indigent representation services; and minimum standards for counsel. The bill also proposes to create an Appointed Counsel Assistance Program to assist attorneys appointed to serious felony and capital cases.

Other co-authors of SB 7 are Victoria Sen. Ken Annbrister, Austin; Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, Dallas; Sen. David Cain, Corpus Christi; Sen. Carlos F. Truan, Houston; Sen. John Whitmire, Armbrister chairs the Criminal Justice Committee which will hear the bill.

Texas ranks 49th in the United States in per-capita spending on indigent criminal defense and is one of only four states that contribute no public funding to indigent defense.

SB 7 is the product of almost two years work between legislators, the State Bar, district judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and reform groups, Ellis said.

Ellis authored similar legislation in 1999. That bill, SB 247, was unanimously passed by both chambers of the Texas Legislature before being vetoed by then Gov. George W. Bush.

"The Texas Fair Defense

Act has broad bipartisan support in both chambers of the legislature and is clearly one of the top priorities this session," Ellis said.

On Tuesday, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips addressed a joint meeting to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee and the House Civil Practices and Judicial Affairs Committees. Phillips gave his regular State of the Judiciary Address. Phillips concentrated on four issues: representation for indigent defendants in criminal cases; legal assistance to the poor in civil cases; foster care and adoption; and the urgent need to improve the way we select judges.

Ellis, a member of the Jurisprudence Committee, urged more action on the issue of indigent legal defense.

"I would just encourage you and other judges in the room, distinguished members of the Texas judiciary, to show some leadership on helping to resolve the problem (of providing defense to indigent defendants), and not just sit on the sidelines and take shots at other proposals that come up."

Ellis said to Phillips, "my sense that the judges want to do that, take a leadership role," Phillips said.

Task Force On Uninsured Gives Report

On Thursday, Harris briefed media on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Uninsured Report to the 77th Legislature. Harris chaired the panel, which was charged during the 76th interim with studying the problem of Texans without health insurance.

Other members of the task force included Beaumont Sen. David Berrisen, El Paso Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, State Reps. Garnet Coleman and Craig

Eiland and then State Rep. Bob Glaze. Then Gov. George W. Bush also appointed three citizen members to the panel: Mary Wilson Dickey of College Station; John C. Goodman of Dallas; and Boone Powell of Dallas.

"In any given month in Texas, right now today, we have a minimum of one out of four Texans who have no form of insurance coverage," Harris said.

Among the task force's recommendations were simpler enrollment and qualifying procedures for state-subsidized insurance and Medicaid and an overall more organized approach to using state resources to get more Texans covered by health insurance.

Senate Votes To Approve Child Testimony Legislation

The Texas Senate approved a bill on Tuesday that would allow a witness who is younger than 13 years old to testify in a criminal case outside the presence of the defendant.

Current Texas law has no provision to allow a child witness to give testimony anywhere but in the courtroom in the presence of the accused.

Shapiro, the sponsor of Committee Substitute Senate Bill (CSSB) 24, said it will allow children to testify in cases where they might feel threatened by being in the presence of someone they saw commit a crime. The bill applies in serious felony cases including capital murder.

The Senate passed the bill with 29 yes votes, although Dallas Sen. Royce West voiced concerns in floor debate about a jury in a serious case not being able to see a witness testify in person.

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