

# The McLean News

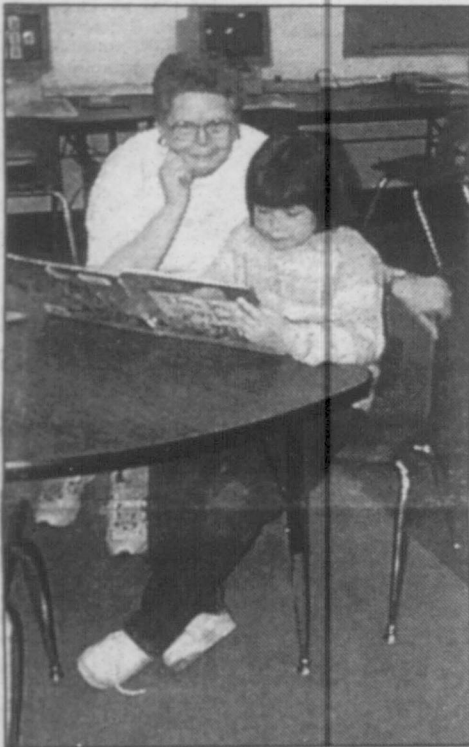


Bank Of Commerce Building  
Office No. 5, 201 N. Main St.

Published Weekly  
Thursday, March 29, 2001

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## Family Reading Night Participants Get Chance At Yummy Door Prize



The family reading night sponsored by the McLean Elementary library and Freda Holland was held Monday March 26, in the school library. This was the night for the monthly drawing. Each month the names of all who have participated are put in a hat. The name of the winner is drawn and those people receive a home baked goody. This month winners are Jordan Herring and Rhonda Sparling.

Those present last  
See Reading, pg 9



## Winter Makes a Comeback

After 70 degree weather, yesterday's storm was a little unexpected, although not totally out of character for our part of the panhandle. Because of our location on the Caprock, we are on the middle of the change line. We only experienced a trace of snow but the temperatures were cold enough to possibly damage the fruit trees that had already started to bloom. Our average last freeze is April 15. We have received 5.59 inches of moisture this year which is above normal, and this should offer a beautiful spring.

## Two Write In Candidates Round Out Ballot Selections

March 21st was the last day to file for a City council position and school board position or to run for Mayor. The deadline for write-in candidates was March 26th. In our May 5th election we will be voting to fill the Mayor's position, two alderman positions, and three School Board positions.

Running for Mayor will be Bob Martin and a write-in candidate June Suggs. Those running for Alderman are Doyle Lee, Dennis Ward, and

Joe Billingsly. Lavon Watson is a write-in candidate for Alderman.

Those running for School Board are Mike Darsey, Billy Joe Skipper Jr., Jody Smith, Donnie R. Basham, Joe Riley, Linda Syfrett, Toni Bohlar, Floyd Skipper, and Terri Adams.

More information will follow on the candidates as we get closer to the election. Be preparing to make an informed decision. Early voting will start April 18.

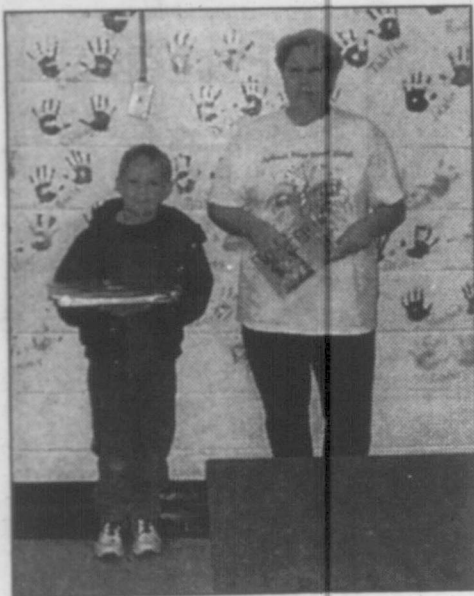
## "Worth the Wait" Speaker Addresses McLean Students About Moral Issues



Speaker and author Doug Herman spoke to Jr. and Sr. High students at McLean High School on Monday, March 26.

Herman, who has spoken to over one million teens in over 1,000 schools and on over 100 radio interviews, spoke to students about dating, healthy relationships, and the consequences of

See Wait, pg 8



## Van Stoled From Local Convenience Store Lot

On March 22, 2001 a 1990 Chevrolet mini van was reported stolen by a 911 call. The van was in the parking lot of the Taylor Mart in McLean. The vehicle was stopped several miles west of McLean by DPS Trooper Gary Davis. Two white males and one white female were arrested and sent to the Carson County Jail. The charges were for engaging in criminal activity. The two males were later

transported to Gray County Jail on the 23rd of March and remain there on a \$5000.00 bond each.

The two male suspects are Ronald J. Shears II of Parkersburg, W.V. and Jared B. Davis of Lowell, OH.

The crime was investigated by Deputy Larry Wallis of the Gray County Sheriffs Dept.

## REMINDERS

SET CLOCKS up on midnight of Saturday March 31st.

ALANREED Cemetery Association will have a meeting on April 2nd in the Alanreed gym at 7:00 p.m.

LITTLE DRIBBLERS Tournament will be in McLean on March 30th & 31st.

GIRL SCOUT Cookies are on sale at the bank.

LITTLE DRIBBLERS tournament in McLean will be on March 30th and 31st.

HIGH SCHOOL & Junior High will have a track meet in Miami on March 30th and 31st.

H.S. & JR. HIGH Track Meet will be in Miami on March 30th & 31st.

DISTRICT TRACK meet will be held in Miami on April 5th & 7th.

DISTRICT TENNIS meet will be held in Pampa on April 2nd & 3rd.

NO FAMILY Reading night on April 16th, due to a school holiday.

ALANREED Cemetery Association will meet on April 2nd in the Alanreed gym at 7:00 p.m.

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

## Husband, Wife Crime Team Arrested

Last weeks paper told of a robbery at Pucketts Grocery Store on March 20th in McLean. The

suspects have since been named in the case. They are Thomas M. Peterson and Valerie C. Peterson.

The suspects were taken into custody after a high speed chase that ended due to a road block

established by Sheriff Copeland and Gray County deputies. The

See Couple, pg 10

**BRIEFS**

**CARD OF THANKS**

Our sincerest thanks to Richard Dyer and Desperado's BBQ and Steaks for catering the McLean Masonic Lodge's Teacher Appreciation Night. The food was delicious and your donation generous!  
J. Boyd Smith &  
The Masonic Lodge

**McLean Birthdays  
Anniversaries**

March 29 - Linda McDonald, Martha Smith.  
March 30 - Jim and Terri Adams (A).  
March 31 - Martha Parker.  
April 1 - Dick Everett, Emma Jean McDonald.  
April 2 - Wendi Stump, Diane Roosa, Wendi Ketcherside, Stephen McAnear, Brown Crawford, Don and Cynthia Hauck (A).  
April 3 - Charles Williams, Cecil Back.  
April 4 - Connie Thompson, Donnia Walker.

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**POPULATION  
DECLINES TO 830**

The figures from the 2000 census are starting to come in. In 1990 McLean had a population of 849 residents, in 2000 that number has dropped to 830. This information comes from the office of State Representative Warren Chisum. Further information is due soon.

**SCHOOL LUNCH  
MENU**

Monday breakfast: Cinnamon toast, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. Lunch: Enchiladas, cheese sauce, pinto beans, salad, spanish rice, fruit, milk.  
Tuesday breakfast: Yogurt, graham crackers, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. Lunch: Fish nuggets, seasoned potatoes, hush puppies, cole slaw, fruit milk.  
Wednesday breakfast: Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk. Lunch: Steak fingers, french fries, gravy, green beans, texas toast, fruit, milk.  
Thursday breakfast: French toast, ham, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. Lunch: Mini corn dogs, pork-n-beans, salad, fruit, milk.  
Friday breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls, toast and jelly, peanut butter, fruit, juice, milk. Lunch: Pizza, corn, salad, brownies, milk.

**WAIT**

premarital sex, including pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases with local students.

A youth speaker since 1984, Doug lost his young wife and infant daughter to AIDS in 1991 through an infected blood transfusion. His son Josh and he survived the tragedy, but have been deeply changed.

He encouraged the students to make wise choices so that they can live meaningful and prosperous lives.

This program was sponsored by Worth the Wait, a nonprofit organization created to address the problems associated with early teen sexual activity in the Texas Panhandle and to delay the onset of teen sexual activity, thus reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy. Worth

the Wait promotes abstinence until marriage (waiting until marriage for sex) from a health-care perspective with a strong emphasis placed on the physical, emotional, and social benefits from this lifestyle.

For more information you can contact Doug Herman at 888-973-4758 or at his website [www.dougherman.com](http://www.dougherman.com).

**BOARD MEETING**

A regular School Board meeting was held Monday night March 26th. Those present were: John Griffin, Mike Darsey, Leslie Darsey, Blaze Herring, Dick Crockett, Margaret Milam, Pam Quisenberry, Janet Glass, Cynthia Hauck, Don Dorsey, Bob Glass, Billie Ward, Neal Odom, Misty Hannon, Eric Smith, and John Holland. Absent were T.D. Simmons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Bob Glass. Pray was given by Mike Darsey. The minutes from the February 19, 2001 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

The Board agreed to skip to a letter on the agenda and went into executive session at 7:11 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 9:10 p.m. At this time they accepted the resignation of Coach Burch, renewed Teacher contracts with the exception of Patty Hall's. Julie McGee and Coach Walker will be given probationary contracts. Mr. Griffin recommended that the Board hire Eric Smith as football coach, the vote was unanimous.

The Board decided not to change the fiscal year start date. The appeal of tax value will not be available until April 1st. The legal issues on the

Health Insurance are still pending. Application for TIF Grant was received by the deadline and we will hear sometime in May whether or not we will be awarded the \$50,000 that was applied for. Policy update 65 was accepted and the financial reports were accepted. Approval to pay February's bills received a unanimous vote.

Under the other business category, two people from the Education Service Center will attend the next Board meeting to help with financial reports.

There will be a Board training April 17th in McLean. The Board voted to allow the Little Dribblers to use the new gym for their tournament this weekend as long as they were responsible for the clean up.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

**DEVIL'S ROPE  
MUSEUM NEWS**

by Davie Gipson  
The Devil's Rope Museum is celebrating its tenth birthday during the Barb Wire Show, April 19, 20, and 21. There will be collectors from several states at the museum at that time showing their wires and other collectibles. The ladies will be showing their collections of kitchen ware, stamps, post cards, and such.

**Obituaries**

**Dennis McClellan**  
AMARILLO- Dennis DeWayne McClellan, 29, brother of a McLean resident, died Thursday, March 22, 2001. Services were held at 11:00 a.m. at the San Jacinto Baptist Church with Dr. Stan Coffey officiating. Burial was held at Llano Cemetery.

Born and raised in Amarillo, Mr. McClellan attended Caprock High and was a graduate of Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy. He was a disc jockey at Crystal Palace in the Radisson Inn and belonged to the San Jacinto Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Jordan McClellan of Amarillo and Colby Schrader of Dalhart; his parents, Ronnie and Judy Kyle of Amarillo; two sisters, Victoria Jenkins and Susan Kyle, both of Amarillo; three brothers, Chris Campbell and Michael Leggett, both of Amarillo, and James McClellan of McLean; and his grandmother, Juanita Kyle of Amarillo.

If you are planning a garage sale for the spring, this would be a good weekend to schedule it, as there will be approximately 35 couples in town for the show and they all love garage sales.

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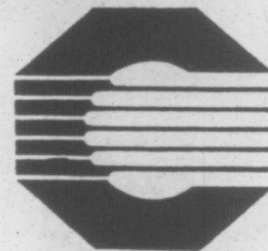
June Suggs, Receptionist

**Dr. Craig Shaffer**  
Medical Director

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## McLean Tracksters Compete In Lefors Meet

The McLean Junior High and High School Track teams competed in a track meet at Lefors on March 23 and 24. The boys attending were Terrance Fite, Tyler

Hanes, Lucas Seymour, Nick Jones, Dustin Kirkland, Kevin Smith, and Nicolas Odom. Terrance, Tyler, Lucas, and Nick took 7th place in the 400 relay and Nick took 4th place in

the 200 hurdles. The boys did a great job and competed well. Keep up the good work guys!

The High School boys that competed were Chris Sparling, David Swafford, Nathaniel Roberts, Ryan McCallister, Dusty Moody, and Shane Estes. Chris took 3rd place in

the 800 run. The girls competing were Sarai Sawyer and Jennifer Greer. Sarai took 2nd place in the 100 yrd dash and 4th place in the 200 yrd dash. Our High School athletes all competed well and were a great representation of our school.

## John Reeves Has Winning Career As Golden Bears Coach

Beginning his eighth year as an assistant coach with the Golden Bears, John Reeves brings the experience of more than 20 years as a softball coach to the program. Reeves, who works primarily with the Cal pitching staff, has helped all of the pitchers he has worked with earn All-Pac-10 honors, including Whitney Floyd, who was a two-time All American with the Bears.

Prior to his arrival at Cal in 1994, Reeves served as head softball coach at Lynbrook High School in San Jose. He led his teams to a combination 105-27 record in five years, including one Central Coast Section title. From 1987-93, he coached the Twin Creeks Diamonds ASA team,

developing more than 30 players who earned positions on Division I softball teams. He has also served as a Bobby Sox and PAL coach for 12 years and as a softball pitching instructor.

In addition, Reeves has presented pitching techniques and strategies at various clinics, including the NFCA Softball Exposure Camp.

Reeves graduated from San Jose State with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies in 1980. He and his wife, Marsha, reside in San Jose.

John Reeves is the son of Bill and Lynn Reeves of McLean. John and his ladies team are currently experiencing a winning season with a 30-1 record.

The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.  
—Theodore Roosevelt

Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end.  
—John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton

Garth Thomas

## Golf Team Places 12th

The McLean High School Golf team competed Monday March 19 and Tuesday March 20 in Childress. Both boys and girls teams competed. The boys team is made up by Bron Bohlar, Josh Seymour, Jacob Eddleman, and Trent Cadra. The girls team is

Nikki Hefley, Randi Riley, Teddra Simmons, Cesily Cadra, and Shaley Steele. Coach Walker said, "The boys shot well." They took 12th place. Walker also stated, "The girls did a good job." They placed seventh in the tournament. Way to go TIGER Golf team!

## Letter To The Editor....

This is my reaction to the news article in last weeks McLean News entitled "Chamber of Commerce Votes to go Inactive."

First, I thank Vonda Averett and those who serve with her, for their efforts the past three years to keep the Chamber a service. They worked their hearts out in planning and staging social activities throughout the years.

However their vote was in recognition of the reality of the local situation. It is of little consolation but the Chamber is not the only organization suffering attendance problems.

The community or area

McLean Chamber should serve covers or extends over the corners of four counties which is very large and is served literally by a gold mine or I-40 which runs from border to border.

However the area does have a potential problem-water depletion, even through many down state are interested in what little we do have.

Thus we need an area wide organization (Maybe a Reactivated Chamber) to plan, to develop, and to speak to us to protect our water supply and to make better usage to attract residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

## One Act play Competes In Zone Competition

On Tuesday, March 20, 2001, the McLean High School One-Act Play traveled to Lefors for Zone competition. McLean's play, "Yes Means No" did not advance to district competition; however, the cast performed well. The plays from Groom and Lefors advanced to district competition at Clarendon.

McLean had two actresses who received special recognition at the Zone competition. Randi Riley received All-Star Cast and Teddra

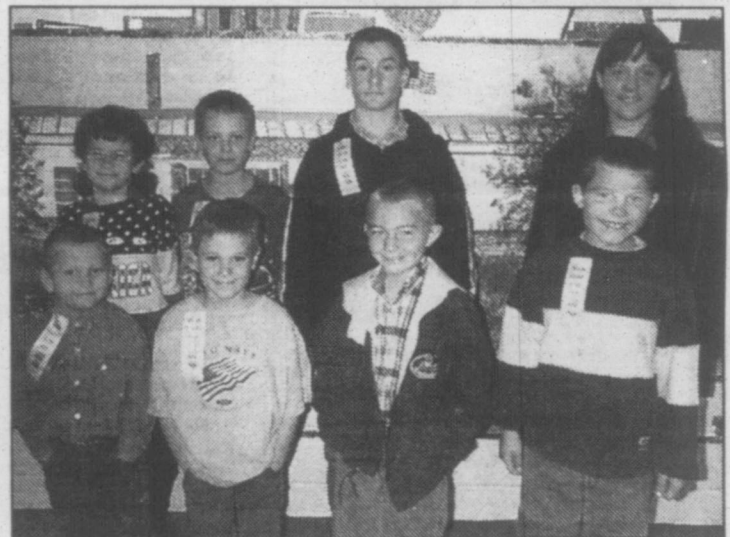
Simmons received Honorable Mention All-Star Cast. The entire cast of the play are: Shane Estes, Brad Sawyer, Randi Riley, Teddra Simmons, and Reo Dennis. Serving as crew for the play are Nikki Hefley and Katrina Routon. The directors of the play are Tammy Carter and Jacque Riley.

The play will be performed for the annual Dinner Theater on April 30th. The place has not been set, so watch the News for further information.

## READING

night were Samantha Krueger, Mike Krueger, Debbie Krueger, Jim Krueger, Becca Reyna, Ella Mae Reyna, Rhonda Sparling, Logan Sparling, Linda Smith, Mark Smith, Shawn Bybee, Tori Bybee, Andrew Bybee, Ashley Russel, Nancy Skipper, Traci Cooper, Britnie Cooper, and Freda Holland.

The family reading night promotes reading together in a fun environment, gives students a credit toward their accelerated reading goal, and gives family a chance to spend constructive time together. If you have not participated yet there is still time to get in on next months fun and a chance for the goodies.



McLean Elementary Jr. High Students of the Week Mar. 19-Mar. 23: Kindergarten Stormy Manns; 1st Grade Jace McLain; 2nd Grade Zachary Seymour; 3rd Grade Stephen Williamson; 4th Grade Kortney Smith; 5th Grade Justin White; 7th Grade Savannah Williamson; 8th Grade Zane Richardson.

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## School Start Date Bill Passes In Senate With No Opposition

**COUPLE**  
officers recovered all of the money taken from Pucketts store. The agencies assisting in this investigation were the Gray County Sheriff's Dept., Gray County Constable Frank Sparling, Texas DPS Highway Patrol Troopers, Texas

DPS License and Weight Troopers, Texas Rangers, and the Pampa Police Dept.



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**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 Dean Williamson 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**  
Rev. 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

San Antonio- Texans for a Traditional School Year praised and thanked the Senate Education Committee for quickly passing a revised Senate Bill 108.

S.B. 108 would require school districts to start school no earlier than the week in which August 21 falls.

"My biggest concern is a little statistic that I received not too long ago that indicated 250,000 kids were absent the first day of school," said Senator Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), the bills author. "S.B. 108 gives school districts a lot of flexibility while addressing the concerns of parents and teachers," he said. "This bill has changed during the last few months to reflect compromises stemming from the input I have sought."

In addition to low attendance numbers, according to Senate hearing testimony, the early-August schools start date creates headaches, heartaches, and hardships for Texas teachers, students, and families. "When school is allowed to start earlier and earlier in the summer months it inhibits teachers' abilities to continue their education," said Tina Bruno, executive director of Texans for a Traditional School Year,

a state-wide grassroots organization.

"With all the discussion about the need for teachers to receive advanced training in specialized areas, it is more important today than ever to ensure teachers have a full summer to pursue advanced degrees," Bruno added.

"Starting school in early August also minimizes students' opportunities to gain workplace experience yet it provides no additional class time or educational benefit to our students," Bruno said. Other Senate hearing testimony revealed that the early August school start date is adding to ozone-related problems, increased electric bills for schools, and a possible decline in revenue for the state.

Among the other groups signing cards of support for S.B. 108 were the Texas State Teachers Association, the Westlaco Federation of Teachers, Rio Grande Labor Council, and the Greater Houston Partnership.

A spokesman from the Texas Federation of Teachers said his organization was not taking a position on the legislation, but reported a recent survey by his group which revealed 68 percent of their members

surveyed agreed school districts should be prohibited from starting classes prior to September 1.

Critics of the proposed legislation say it takes away local control from the school districts.

In response Senator Teel Bivins, (R-Amarillo), told the Amarillo Globe News, "While I am a strong supporter of local control, I feel there is a point where the state has a legitimate interest." He added that after studying school start dates he finds the bill to be a "reasonable compromise."

Senator Lucio added the "bill simply sets a starting point for the school year. School boards have total control in setting holidays, semester divisions, and the last day of school," he said.

Senators Bivins, Zaffirini, Nelson, Sibley, Truan, and Van De Putte all voted for the bill. Senator Shapiro abstained and Senators Staples and Cain were absent with no vote.

In her closing remarks, Bruno asked the committee to ponder one last thought: "As a state we not only set the schedules for high school sporting events via the UIL- but we tell coaches how many days before the first game they can practice and how long those practices can be. When I asked coaches

why they needed these guidelines their response was quick and simple: to ensure fairness in the game."

"The TAAS test is the academic game in Texas-

yet kids taking that test can differ by as much as four weeks of instruction. Is it fair to judge our students on the same scale when not all have the same practice time? As a mentor of an at-risk student, I know the incredible progress she makes during one month. For many children, I am sure one month could mean the difference between passing and failing. If uniformity is important in sports to ensure fairness, shouldn't we work to return fairness to academics?" Bruno said.

Texas for a Traditional School Year is a grass-root, non-profit organization concerned about the negative impact the early-August school start date has on students, teachers, and families. Their mission is to raise public awareness about this issue and its direct impact on Texas youth and the education we expect them to earn.

For more information on the negative impact of the early-August school state date on teachers, families, and students contact Texans for a Traditional School Year toll-free at 877-531-9011.

## Little Dribblers Compete In Samnorwood Tourney

Our McLean Little Dribblers competed in a basketball tournament in Samnorwood the 23rd and 24th of March. The third and fourth grade beat Ft. Elliot in their first game, Wheeler in their second game, but lost to Shamrock in the championship game. These are the first games won by our third and fourth grade girls, so it was very exciting that they came in second place for the tournament.

The third and fourth grade boys competed but did not place. Kindergarten, first, and second grade did not compete, as there were

no opponents in that level.

The fifth and sixth grade girls and boys took sixth place in their classes.

Be sure to let these kids know what a good job they have done!



+++++

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# The Groom News

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Volume 74 Number 45

The Groom-McLean News 79039

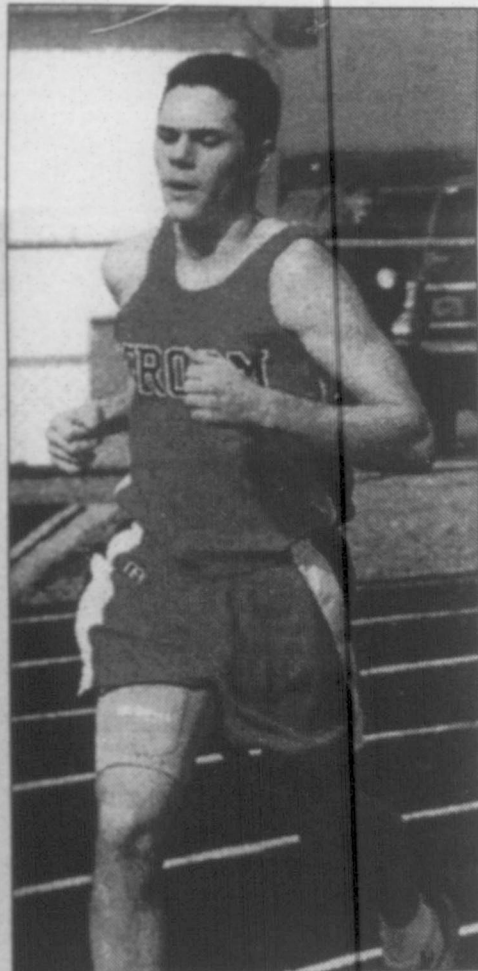
Thursday, March 29, 2001

## Winter Makes A Grand Come Back

Spring may have sprung according to the calendar but would someone please tell "Old Man Winter." Area residents pulled out their short sleeves and short pants just a few days ago only to wake up to very cold temperature on Saturday and about 2" to 3" of snow on Monday. The ground was warm and much of the snow melted as it landed, colder surfaces like car wind shields had a good accumulation.

Area overpasses were a little slick and some careless drivers had unfortunate accidents throughout the morning hours. Many fruit trees and early blooming daffodils and other perennials may have fallen victim to the cold moisture.

A warming trend is expected at the end of the week, but you can never be sure of Spring until after Easter, and the mesquite begins to leaf out!



Endurance is Luke Pavlovsky's long suite as he gives his all to the 3200 meter run.

## Groom Tracksters Compete In Lefors Invitational Meet

Groom High School Tracksters competed in the Lefors Invitational Track and Field Meet last weekend.

The Ettes won the track meet.

The 400m relay placed

1st. Relay members consist of Krisanne Davis, Candace Bohr, Amanda Conrad, and Staci Britten.

In the 800m run, Nichole Barnett placed 1st and Lauren Crowell 2nd. See Meet, pg 4



Looking more like the week before Christmas than the second week of Spring, Groom's Memorial Park is draped in white and awaits warmer weather for company to enjoy it's walking paths and playgrounds.

## John Wilson To Resign As Superintendent

Childress I.S.D. announced last week that Groom I.S.D. Superintendent John Wilson was their final selection for a candidate to replace retiring Superintendent Kenneth Sweatt, who also came from Groom.

Wilson has been in Groom for two and a half years, replacing Ben Ingham. "We have enjoyed our time in Groom," said Mr. Wilson, "everyone has been very kind to

our family. We appreciate everything everyone has done for us."

Wilson's contract will be fulfilled at the end of June.

Groom I.S.D. Board of Trustees met on Monday night to formulate their plans to find a new superintendent. The Board will also be looking for an elementary teacher to replace Mrs. Wilson.

## Last Minute Filings Constitute May Election For City & School

With several 12th hour applications, The City of Groom will also be holding an election this May for two Alderman positions.

Four candidates will vie for the 2-two year terms on the city council. Signing up on Wednesday were Rick Prather and Chris Welch. Forrest McLaughlin and incumbent Kenneth Weller had signed up earlier.

As reported last week, the school has 6 candidates for 3 positions. Board President Denny Babcock will be retiring from office after serving 15 years on the Groom ISD school board. Candidates on the ballot will be

Clifton Britten (I), Jigger Britten, Carla Koetting, Lonny Brown, Ron Kuehler and Mike Friemel.

Early voting by personal appearance is scheduled to begin on April 18. Voters in the city election need to go to the City office, and voters in the school board election should go to the business managers office at the school.

Those who wish to vote by mail may request their ballot now.

The balloting will be held on May 5, 2001 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the superintendent's office at the school for both the city and school elections.

## COMMUNITY CALENDER

**CITY AND SCHOOL** Election will be held at the school on May 5.

**THERE WILL BE** a Diabetes Education meeting on Thursday, March 29, at 12:00 Noon in the War memorial Building in Panhandle. If interested contact the Carson County Extension Office at 537-3882, for more information and the reserve your seat.

**MARK YOUR** calendars! The Lion's Club Annual Fund Raiser for the Summer Youth Program will be on April 8th.

**GROOM SCHOOL** will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. on April 10th. Parents are asked to come to school and pick up their children's report cards on that day and are invited to take the opportunity to visit with teachers.

**AN ENCORE** performance of "Steel Magnolias," a one act play, will be presented for the enjoyment of the public free of charge on March 29 at 7:30 pm.

**THE GROOM** High School prom is set for April 21st.

**THERE WILL BE** no school on April 13 & April 16 for Easter Vacation.

**EMT CLASSES** will begin on April 1 at the Community Center at 1:00 p.m. Come if you are interested.

**MARCH 30** and 31 is the Miami Track Meet.

**SPRING FORWARD** One Hour. Daylight Savings Time begins on Midnight of April 1st.

**THE ATHLETIC** Banquet in Groom is scheduled for May 17th.

**KEEP GROOM** Beautiful Cleanup Scheduled for May. Volunteers Needed! If you are interested in participating in or sponsoring this project, please contact David or Lanna Brown 248-7926. Date to be determined at organizational meeting. More information coming very soon.

**TUESDAY PRICES**  
AT ATTEBURY  
GRAIN CO.  
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# The Groom News

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Saturday, April 21st at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
 The Light Crust Doughboys - a very popular show from Mesquite, Texas

Tickets: \$8.00 adults \$3.00 children  
 Call 226-5409 for reservations  
 Come See Our Selections In The Gift Shop!

## Local Happenings

Donna Marie Wagner was in Groom recently to bring her father, Glenn Smith, home from the hospital.

Glenn said it was too soon to know if he was felling better!

Glynda Eschle and Jason of Lubbock visited in the Glynn D. Harrell home this past weekend.

Mary Sue Lyles and daughters were in Oklahoma City over the weekend.

### Groom Birthdays Anniversaries

March 29 - Bill Ellington.

March 30 - Kenneth Jackson, David Fields, Cody Conrad.

March 31 - Melissa Anthony, Ed England, Michael Thomas, Angela Reed Beddingfield.

April 1 - Linda Fields, Allie Hoyt, Charles Bowers, Sarah Hutsell, Cody Babcock.

April 2 - Mrs. Albert Britten, Dustin Babcock.

April 3 - Troy Treadwell, Mrs. H.L. Mansel, Sharon Jones-Britten, Renee Weinheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Burgin (A).

April 4 - C.J. Whatley.

Helen Witt returned home Thursday from a visit in East Texas. She flew to Dallas on Friday and was welcomed by Mary Kay Johnson with whom she spent the night in Ft. Worth. On Saturday they went to Venus to visit Jay, Melody, Rheagan, Rachel, and Rowdy Witt.

After lunch Mary Kay left for the school where she works for some school duties.

Helen and the Witt family met Lynell and Ben Peek and Danese McGill at the Olive Garden in Dallas that evening to celebrate the March birthdays of Lynell Peek, Rheagan Witt, and Danese McGill. Helen went home with them to Clarksville and visited until Wednesday, when her granddaughter, Danese, and Jay Brembalow brought her home in the Regency Nursing Home van.

Patsy Frasier and her sister, Emma Grace Pennington of Austin, flew to Phoenix, Az. March 14, to visit in the home of their sister and husband Barbara and James Dickerson. They attended the wedding of the Dickerson's granddaughter, Ashley Moore to Jay Harrison on March 17th. The wedding was beautiful and so was the weather. It is already getting hot there, no wind or snow.

Barbara and James send their love to Groom.

Joyce "Hollywood" Hutsell was spokesperson during an interview with KVII news, as they did a report on Groom's Economic Development Corporation free land give away.

Groom School buses have been keeping the road hot between Groom and Clarendon as students compete in UIL Events.

## "Relay For Life" To Be Held In Panhandle

Carson County Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society. This relay is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life - including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches, and community members - to join together in the fight against cancer. Carson County Relay For Life is a team event where participants walk around a track relay style for eight hours (6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.). Teams from all walks of life will gather at Panther Stadium in Panhandle on July 20th to show their support in the fight against cancer. There will be an organizational meeting tonight

(Thursday) in Panhandle at the First Christian Church located at 600 Euclid at 6:30 p.m. Dedicated volunteers from the communities of Groom, Panhandle, Skellytown, and White Deer are needed to begin planning now for this exciting event. For more information call the Carson County Relay for Life Chairperson Scott Kennedy at 537-3013 or your American Cancer Society Office at 353-4306. The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

## Celebration Of Life Planned

Crown of Texas Hospice families, volunteers, and staff will gather together to celebrate the memories and lives of their loved ones at the ninth annual Celebration of Life Memorial Service on Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m., Polk Street United Methodist Church Chapel, Amarillo. A reception, hosted by Crown of Texas Hospice volunteers, will follow. The public is invited. For more information, please phone 372-7696, or 1-800-572-6365.

**Beta Eta Psi & Delta Epsilon Lambda**  
**3 on 3 Basketball Tourney**  
**April 28 at Claude Gym**  
**Entry Fee \$30 per team**  
**Everyone ages 8-adult**  
**Call Joyce Skarke 944-5563 or Darlis Nace 226-3014 by April 21 to enter your team.**

Proceeds will benefit school auditorium curtain fund in memory of Coby Detten, a former elementary student. Fund will be set up at First National Bank of Claude for anyone wishing to contribute.

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"I've got a few snapshots of the children, too, but they're in the pantry."

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will be accepting children for Registered Home Day Care for the summer.

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## Case Nominated For WTAMU Student Employee of the Year

Kay Case, a senior agribusiness major from Groom, has been nominated for Student Employee of the Year at West Texas A & M University.

Case is a clerk for WTAMU's Physical Plant. She has been with the plant for three years.

The WTAMU Student Employee of the Year winner will go on to the

regional competition according to Elise Copeland, coordinator of Student Employee Services.

All nominees will be recognized, and the winner will be announced at a reception at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 6 in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center Quiet Lounge.

## New Test Well To Be Drilled by City

A City Council Meeting was held on Friday March 23, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Those present included: Mayor, Joe Homer; Aldermen Ellis Stapp, W.H. Ollinger, Don Case, Kenneth Weller, and Mary Brooks. Visitors included Mike Peters and Jarrett Atkinson from Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, and Mary Sue Lyles.

The Mayor reported on the results of the test wells that had been dug on the new property. The pumping capacity of the wells showed to be less than what the City needs to meet peak usage requirements. The Mayor recognized Mike Peters, from PRPC, who discussed the status of the Community Development Grant funds that are being used to drill the new well. Mr. Peters, Mr. Atkinson, and the council reviewed the options available.

Options included:

1. Drill a new well

on the Black property, 2. Drill a lower producing well on the new lots, or 3. Look for new places on which to place a well.

The Mayor reported on his visit with a representative from SPS about moving the electrical line that runs down the center of the land that the City has leased from Kenneth Black. SPS could reroute the line onto City right of ways for around \$30,000 or they could move over to the north side of the leased property and set new

poles to reroute the lines for \$7,000, but they would have to have a new easement agreement with Mr. Black, who is not agreeable to this plan.

A motion was passed to drill a test well on the City property at Third and Texas Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



## One Act Play Advanced To The District Meet In Clarendon

Groom's One Act Play production of "Steel Magnolias" advanced to the district level of competition after competing in Zone on March 20th.

Brooke Britten was named Best Actress in the Zone contest. Jessica Bates was named to the All-Star Cast. Frances Britten and Macie Britten were both named to Honorable Mention All-Star Cast.

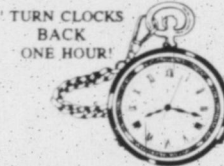
In the District contest on March 22, the play, unfortunately, did not

advance. Brooke Britten and Macie Britten were both named to the All-Star Cast. Liz Vega received Honorable Mention honors for the All Star Cast.

An encore performance will be presented on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 in the Groom High School Auditorium. It will be free of charge. At the end of the performance the actresses will perform outtakes from different scenes in the play.

## More Local Happenings...

Jim and Sue Norton of Amarillo visited Sue's Aunt, Bertha Knight, on Saturday. They brought enough food of different varieties to last Bertha a week.



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*Dorothy Mansel*

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*Groom Community Center*

*From 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

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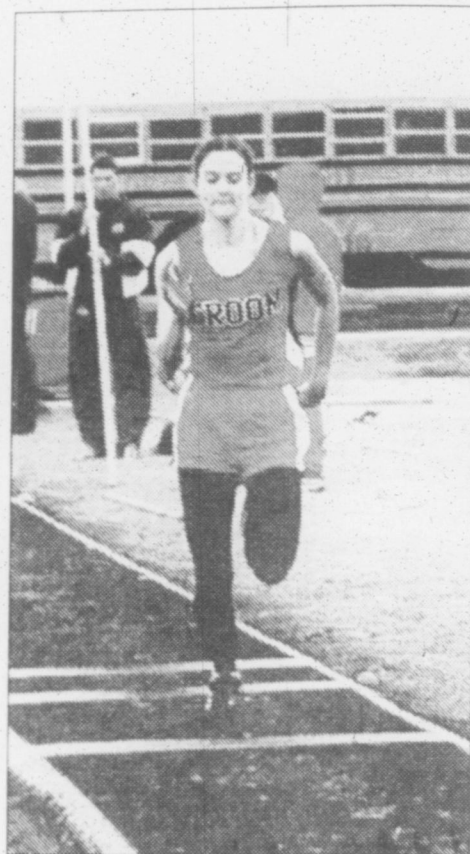
Your headquarters for Art Supplies, Custom and Ready Made Frames.



Krisanne Davis leaps her way to gold medals in the Lefors track meet. She is a real contender for the district title.



Dewayne Gray clears "daylight" earning Groom two silver medals at Lefors.



Amanda Conrad puts power behind her jump with a good start and an excellent stride.

## MEET

placed 3rd.

In the 400m dash, Staci Britten placed 1st, Britney Martin placed 3rd, and Amanda Martin placed 4th.

In the 300m hurdles, Krisanne Davis placed 1st and Lauren Crowell placed 5th.

In the 1600m run, Lauren Crowell placed 1st and Laine Britten placed 2nd.

The 100m relay placed 1st. Relay members consist of Krisanne Davis, Nichole Barnett, Candace Bohr, and Amanda Conrad.

The 1600m also placed 1st. The relay team consist of Amanda

Conrad, Candace Bohr, Nichole Barnett, and Staci Britten.

Laurissa Noack placed 2nd in shot and also 2nd in Discus.

In the long jump, Krisanne Davis placed 1st, Amanda Conrad placed 2nd, and Amanda Martin placed 5th.

In the triple jump, Krisanne Davis placed 1st and Amanda Conrad placed 2nd.

In the high jump, Candace Bohr placed 1st, Staci Britten placed 2nd, and Caren Howard placed 4th.

Groom Boys placed 2nd in the meet. Clay Ritter had an awesome

day, winning 1st in the triple jump, high jump, and 200 meter run.

Dewayne Gray placed 2nd in the triple jump and also 2nd in the long jump.

Russell Conrad won the 800 meter run, and placed 2nd in the 1600 meter run.

Luke Pavlovsky placed 4th in the 1600 meter run, and also placed 5th in the 3200 meter run.

Lance Ollinger placed 3rd in the 110 meter hurdles, and 4th in the 300 meter hurdles.

Bobby Ratteree placed 5th in the 110 meter hurdles, and 5th in the 300 meter hurdles.

Wyatt Britten placed 6th in the 110 meter hurdles, and also 6th in the 300 meter hurdles.

Both Tiger relay teams did an outstanding job winning both the 400 meter relay and the 1600 meter relay. Relay

members include: Clay Britten, Clay Ritter, Garrett Britten, and Dewayne Gray.

The Junior High boys and girls also competed in the Lefors Relays.

Malorie Homen placed 5th in the 800m run.

In the 200m run, Megan Bivens placed 4th and Ashley Jackson placed 5th.

In the 400m run, Sharri Britten placed 5th and Katy Britten placed 6th.

Gailynn Drewery placed 5th in the 1200m run.

Jeff Rios placed 2nd in the shot put.

Kelby Noack placed 3rd in the 2400 meter run, and placed 6th in the 1200 meter run.

Chance Barkley placed 5th in the 200 meter hurdles.

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Running can be solitary business, when you choose endurance races like Kelby Noack has in the 1200 meter run and the 2400 meter run.

## Groom School Lunch Menu

Monday breakfast: Cold cereal, muffins, juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, chocolate cake, milk. Tuesday breakfast: Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, juice, milk. Lunch: Sloppy joes, tator tots, apricots, pickle spears, milk. Wednesday breakfast: Breakfast burritos, hash brown potatoes, juice, milk. Lunch: Soft tacos, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, yogurt, milk. Thursday breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, bacon, juice, milk. Lunch: Enchiladas, refried beans, spanish rice, lettuce, tomatoes, tortilla pieces, jello, milk. Friday breakfast: Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk. Lunch: Fish or steak, mashed potatoes, corn, hot rolls, brownies, milk.

## New Deputy Hired

On March 26, 2001, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Carson County, Texas met. The following members and officers were present: Hon. Lewis W. Powers, County Judge; Mike Britten, Commissioner, Pr. 1; Kenneth Ware, Commissioner, Pr. 2; Jerry Strawn, Commissioner, Pr. 3; Kevin Howell, Commissioner, Pr. 4. Minutes of the March 12, 2001 meeting were read and approved.

The court approved the renewal contract with Allied Compliance Services for drug testing of employees. The motion was carried to continue with the company. The motion was also passed to pay \$830.00 to Allied.

Discussion was held concerning the payment of a \$30,000 claim for medical assistance given to a prisoner while incarcerated in the county jail. The liability will be taken from the indigent budget. The motion was passed to pay all claims.

Commissioners discussed accepting the bid in the amount of \$125 from Steve Huckins for the resale of delinquent tax property. Tax Assessor-Collector Barbara Cosper told the court that White Deer ISD and City of

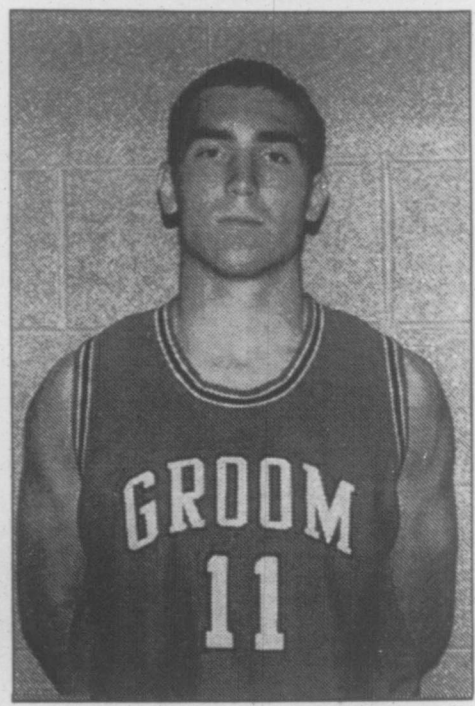
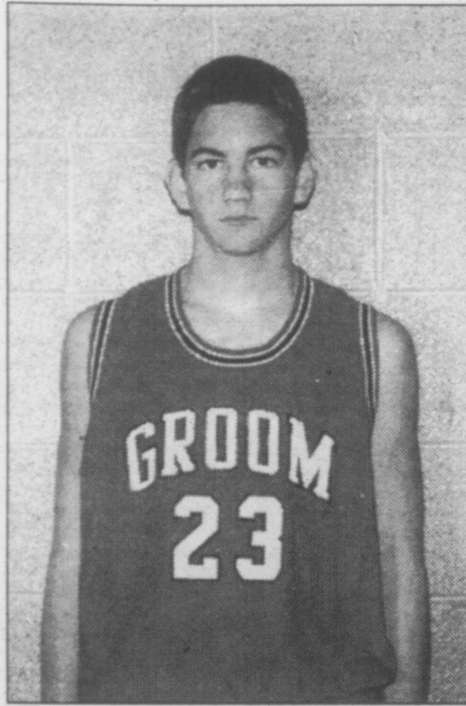
Skellytown have already approved the sale for Lots 6-10, Block 12 in the original townsite of Skellytown. The motion to accept the bid was passed.

The court heard department request from Sheriff Gary Robertson. Robertson asked for the authorization to hire Jason Collier as field deputy at the annual salary of \$23,887.92, effective April 1, 2001. Robertson also petitioned the court to transfer cell phone service from Fred Herrick to Ray Davis, upon the retirement of Herrick. The motions to approve the request were passed.

County Clerk Sonya Shieldknight presented the court with a proposed plat for the Burrell Subdivision which is just southeast of Panhandle. The motion was passed to accept the plat for filing in the clerk's office. The plat is for 26.03 acres of land in Section 53, Block 2, Tyler Tap Survey.

Mary Lou Simms and Viola Moore of the Carson County Square House Museum met with the court to discuss the county's funding of the entity. No action was taken on adjusting the budgeted allocation.

The court adjourned until April 9, 2001.



## Conrad, Gray Named To All Region All Star Team

Two Groom Tigers have been named to the Six Man Coaches Association All-Region team.

Dwayne Gray, senior, was named to the Second All-Regional Team. He is the son of Ed and Ellen Gray.

Russell Conrad was named to the Honorable Mention Team. He is also a senior and the son of Donnie and Marcia

Conrad. The Tigers finished the season with a season record of 11-10. They won District and Area titles.

## Livestock Assistance Approved

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs reminds livestock producers that 240 Texas counties have been

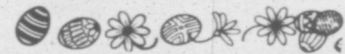
approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP).

LAP, administered by FSA, provides direct payments to eligible livestock producers in approved counties who suffered grazing losses due to natural disasters during 2000. Nationwide, \$430 million have been allocated for livestock producers for weather-related losses as part of the farm assistance package passes last October.

For drought-related losses, LAP benefits are available in approved counties where precipitation was 40 percent loss of available grazing during a 90-day period due to the drought during the 2000-crop year.

Eligible producers must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing for three or more consecutive months during 2000 due to a natural disaster. Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and equine animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm or ranch.

For more information on LAP, visit the USDA-Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/lap01.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/lap01.htm) or contact the local USDA Service Center.



## Armstrong County Museum & Gem Theatre



Claude, Texas

Saturday, April 21st at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
The Light Crust Doughboys - a very popular show from Mesquite, Texas

Saturday, April 28th at 7:30 pm  
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WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2001 6:30 p.m.

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FOR MORE INFO CALL SCOTT AT 537-3013.

## Newspapers Remain Vital For Public Notices

By Dolph Tillotson  
Texas has for decades worked to fully inform its citizens by requiring that public notices be printed in local newspapers.

Several bills now before the Legislature threaten that tradition of publishing important notices while allowing exclusive publication on the Internet, at the option of state and local governments.

There is nothing wrong with using the Internet to expand public notice. That's already happening without much prompting by the state. However, for the foreseeable future, newspapers remain vital to the process of public notice.

The bills are S.B. 872 by Jon Lindsay (R-Houston) and S.B. 853 by Sen. Chris Harris (R-Arlington). Lindsay's bill would allow for Internet posting of public bid notices. Harris's bill is more sweeping and

would allow publication on the Internet of all public notices required by state law.

Let's say up front that newspaper publishers likely would lose revenue because of the change. However, for most daily newspapers, legal advertising represents a small percentage of revenue, usually much

less than 5 percent. The percentage for weekly newspapers is higher.

The real losers if this legislation passes would be the public.

In this debate, it is essential for all to understand the underlying purpose of such advertising; it is not just functional, aimed only at public officials and contractors who do business with the government. It is for everyone.

All citizens have a right to information about public bidding, meetings, tax foreclosure sales, and adoption of new tax rates and budgets.

The fact is, not enough Texans have Internet access or use what they do have—at least not yet. A 1998 U.S. Department of Commerce study set Texas's statewide rate of access at only about 24.5 percent. Admittedly, that likely is somewhat higher today.

However, there remains an undeniable digital divide between those who have access to the Internet and those who don't. It is obvious that without Internet access are the most economically disadvantaged among us. Access also is much lower in rural than in urban areas.

The best data available seems to be a June 2000

report titled "Government Services and Computer and Internet Use in Texas," compiled by the University of Texas. It concludes that about half of all Texans have at least limited Internet access, but fully half the polling sample agreed "the Internet is insufficiently available across the state to rely on it for providing government services."

Simply put, allowing Internet only posting would put such information off-limits to all who do not possess the money, the skill, the training, and the hardware or software to surf the net. That's a bad idea.

It's an even worse idea when one considers how newspapers still may serve in this area.

Habit is an important part of what newspapers offer. The state of Texas has invested millions over the years in training citizens to look for public notices in their local newspaper. We should not toss this aside without a great amount of planning and thought.

Further, a majority of Texas newspapers already have their own Internet presence. The Texas Press Association reports that more than half of the state's 550 newspapers have Internet editions. Of those, 111 Texas newspapers currently are posting legal notices to the Internet.

In many cases (including The Galveston County Daily News), legal posting on the Internet is a free service

offered to enhance the value and reach the legal advertising published in the paper.

Surely there is a way to harness the power of a print-Internet partnership to serve the people of Texas better.

Some in the Texas Legislature may relish the notion of taking a small amount of revenue away from their local newspaper.

Others may sincerely believe the state should make more and better use of Internet technology. It is hard to argue with that notion. It's also logical, however, that expansion onto the Internet should be phased and appropriate to the growth in genuine Internet access and use.

The bills on the table today could essentially end access to huge quantities of public information for all but our most technologically advanced and wealthiest citizens.

It is an idea whose time has not come.

Scott Hyde to be Featured in the Art Gallery

It is with great pride that we feature the works of one of the Panhandles most outstanding photographers in the newly renovated art gallery. Scott Hyde has so many honors and has achieved so much recognition that it is hard to know just where to begin.

From 1947-1949, while studying art at the Art Students League in New York City, Scott Hyde photographed for Conde Nast Publications. In 1950 he left Conde Nast to do free-lance commercial work, which he continues in addition to teaching.

## Area Obituaries

**Jessie Mae Cruse**  
CLAUDE - Jessie Mae Cruse, 92, passed away on March 25, 2001.

Services were held on Tuesday, March 27, in the Robertson Funeral

Directors Chapel of Memories in Clarendon. Billy Jones, Church of Christ minister from Jericho officiated. Burial was in the Groom Cemetery.

Mrs. Cruse was born on Nov. 26, 1908 at Lelia Lake, Donley County. She was a resident of Amarillo before moving to Claude in 1964. She married Clyde Henry Cruse on Jan. 21, 1928. They raised green house tomatoes in Claude for several years. She was a homemaker who was very devoted to her family. She was a Baptist.

She was preceded in death by her husband, on Oct. 28, 1990; and by a grandson, Randy Ritter, in 1977.

Survivors include a daughter, Jaundell Ritter-Bivens of Groom; a son, Bennie Cruse of Amarillo; two sisters, Melba Leathers of Clarendon and Dean Angel of Amarillo; five grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Casket bearers will be grandsons and great-grandsons.

The family suggest memorials be to a favorite charity.

**Martha Fields Wagoner**  
HEREFORD - Martha Ella Fields Wagoner, age 89, died Saturday, March 24, 2001 at Hereford Regional Medical Center. Funeral Services were held Monday, March 26, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Hereford, Texas with Reverend Terry Cosby, Pastor and Reverend John Wagoner, Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Dumas, Texas, officiating. Burial was held at West Park Cemetery.

Martha Fields Wagoner was born March 26, 1911 in Clarendon, Texas to Dr. Charles L. Fields and Bettie Fields. She was raised in Groom, Texas with seven brothers and four sisters. Following graduation from Groom High School, Martha

attended Wayland Baptist College. Martha married Robert Wagoner on November 7, 1931. They farmed near Groom before moving to Deaf Smith County in 1937.

Martha and her husband owned and operated Wagoner Trucking from 1952 to 1975. Martha also worked for 10 years as a receptionist at Rix Funeral Directors in Hereford. Mrs. Wagoner was a member of the First Baptist Church and was an active member of her Sunday School Class. She was a member of Eastern Star and was active in several bridge groups.

Mrs. Wagoner was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Charles L. and Betty Fields, and Robert Wagoner her husband. She was also preceded in death by six brothers and four sisters: Lewis Fields, Truett Fields, Madison Fields, Raymond Fields, Charles Fields, Tom Fields, Ruth Smith, Esther Tinsley, Margaret Thomas, and Frances Mosley.

Mrs. Wagoner is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Elaine and Barry L. Jones of Hereford, Texas, grandchildren: Gary Jones and wife Susan Jones of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Karen Jones of Irving, Texas, and Robert Jones and wife Laura Jones of Hereford, Texas; great grandchildren: Ben and Sam Jones of Oklahoma City, OK. Mrs. Wagoner is also survived by her brother Henry Fields and wife Koma Beryl Fields of Claude, Texas, and sister-in-law Nettie Fields of Groom, Texas, Minnie Fields of Amarillo, Texas, and Dorothy Fields of Vega, Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews with whom she shared a great deal of love.

Memorials may be made to Crown of Texas Hospice, Hereford, Texas, First Baptist Church of Hereford, Texas, and Cal Farley's Boys Ranch of Eastern Star of Hereford, Texas.



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