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The McLean News



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

Published Weekly
Thursday, March 16, 2006

1-806-779-2141
1-806-248-7333

Firestorm - Worst In Texas History

City Of McLean Encircled By Fire's Rage

On Friday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall the City Council of McLean and Mayor, Bob Martin will sign into effect a Declaration of Disaster for the City of McLean. This will qualify the city to apply for funding for disaster relief due to the fires that have swept through the panhandle.

The fires began on Sunday morning around 11:30 a.m. traveling down and around highway 273 north of McLean. The fires, fueled by 40 plus mph winds, quickly approached the nine mile station, threatening homes in that area.

One home was lost in the blaze at the nine mile station. Seven miles north of McLean, Johnnie and Mary Ann Carpenter lost their home to the blaze.

Highway 273 was shut down from McLean to Lefors with flames, smoke down power lines, and cattle making it impossible. The highway was re-opened on Monday afternoon.

At the same time, firefighters were fighting approaching fires five miles north of Alanreed. The homes of the Darsey's, Thompson's, Lewis's, Bruce's, and Stubbs' along with others in the area were saved.

The fires approached Alanreed and destroyed some vacant buildings and land. Near Alanreed, Jim

and Evelyn Shaw and Bob and Colleen Sherrod lost their hor

At 7:10 p.m. Sunday, the city's emergency sirens began to blow for a voluntary evacuation of the town as it was surrounded on three sides by fire.

With I-40 shut down

due to fire and smoke, residents of the McLean Care Center were loaded into buses from the school and were taken to Shamrock for safety. Many other residents of McLean also stayed at motels in Shamrock and on into Oklahoma.

Firefighters from McLean, Kress, Shamrock, Groom, Amarillo, Canyon, Tulia and Lefors fought fire battles from Sunday morning until Monday night. Fires sprung up again Tuesday afternoon.

Two McLean firemen were injured while fighting fire. Toby Hutchison injured a knee and Butch Warner received minor burns to his face and arm. He was later taken to the Shamrock Hospital for breathing problems and chills and was later transported to Amarillo.

Volunteers from everywhere showed up to help. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army both brought supplies and food to the firefighters at the McLean Fire Station.

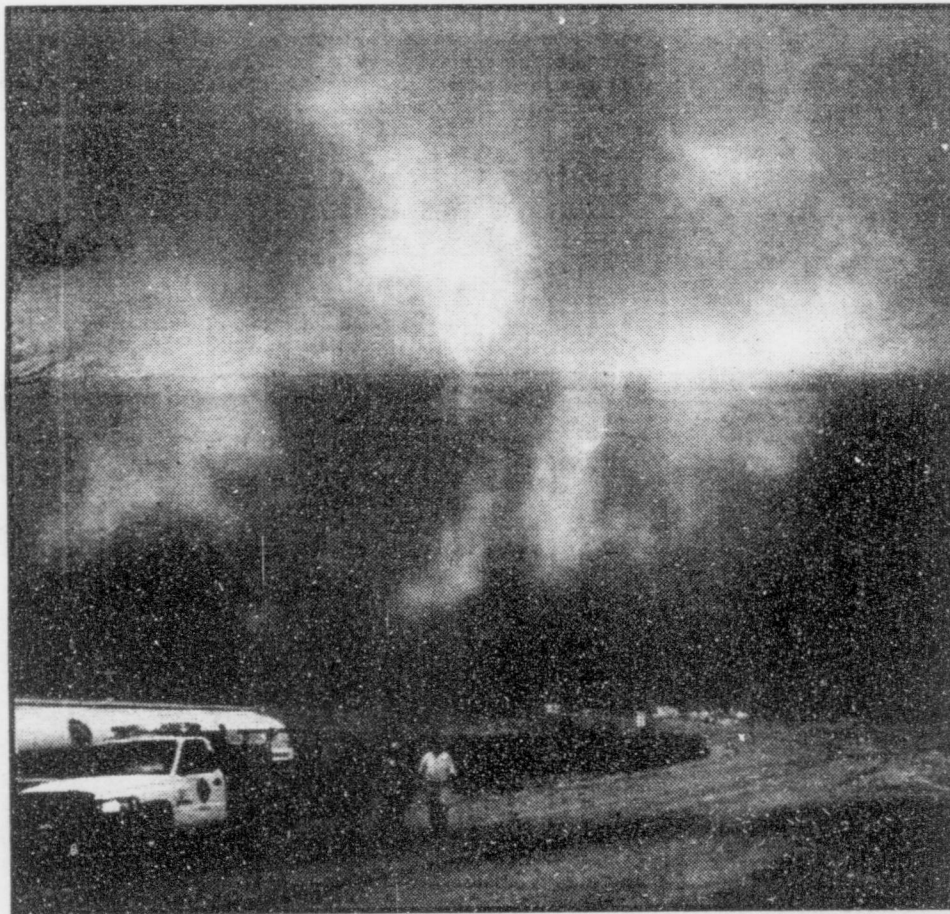
According to The Texas Forest Service, over 350,000 acres have burned in Gray County.

Mayor Bob Martin told the McLean News that seven structures were lost to the fires. The loss of livestock to the area is unknown at this time, but is expected to reach the hundreds possibly thousands around the McLean area.

In the panhandle, 11 people have lost their lives due to the fires.

Persons who would like to donate household items can do so by calling the Red Cross coordinator, Mindy Reeves at 779-2700 or delivering them to the Biral store located

See FIRE STORM pg. 10



Firefighters prepare to take on the powerful fire storm that caused devastation from Lefors to McLean and beyond this past weekend. Firefighters worked continuously around the clock for days to save as many of people's homes as was humanly possible.

Governor Rick Perry To Tour Disaster Area Today

Governor Rick Perry will be arriving in Amarillo on Thursday, March 16 to survey the disaster area of the Texas panhandle. This is the largest fire since 1998.

Local Reminders

PRAY FOR RAIN!!

SCHOOL BOARD will meet March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Business Office.

DONATIONS for victims of fire are being taken at the Bank of Commerce and Biral.

THE CITY Council will meet tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. to sign into effect a "Declaration of Disaster Resolution."

PIONEER STUDY Club will meet March 16th.

ST. PATRICK'S Day - March 17.

Any person that has been displaced due to the Panhandle fires, please call 1-800-297-2270 for assistance.

DON'T FORGET that this weekend is the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Good Luck to our local beauty contestants.

No Election To Be Held For City or School

There will be no election in the race for City Alderman or Board Trustee in McLean.

Three seats were up for election in the City Council. All three seats will be filled with incumbents due to a lack of persons filling to run.

Those positions are currently and will continue to be filled with Mindy Reeves, Betty Taylor and Teresa

Simmons. Each seat is a two year term.

At the March 13th Council meeting, Janet Glass resigned from her position stating personal reasons. City Secretary, Toni Bohlar is currently finding information to see if the seat can be appointed one by the council or if a special election will have to be held due to the length of

time that is left in this particular aldermen seat.

In the race for school board, Billy Bybee and Marshall Hanes who are currently on the board chose not to run again.

Therefore, Carey Richardson and Randy Eddleman, the only two to sign up to run will automatically fill those position in May. These positions are three year terms.

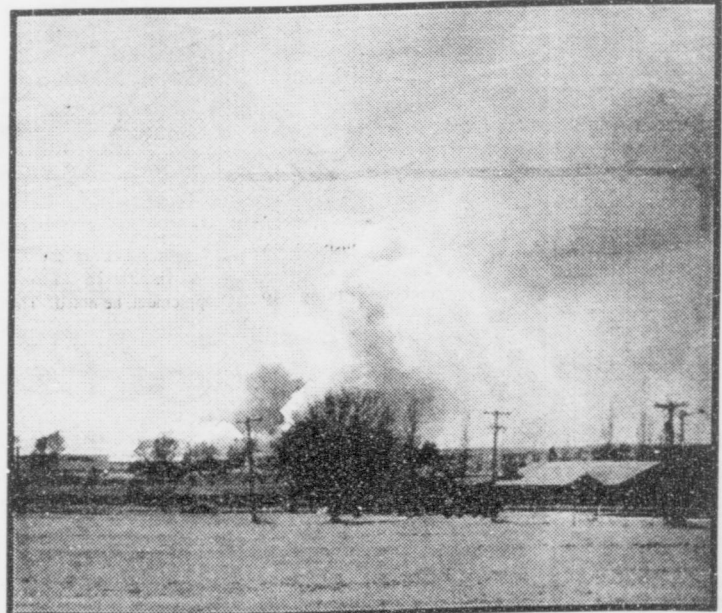
County and State Election Results

Gray county will hold a runoff election between current Treasurer, Republican Lee Cornelison and his opponent Republican Scott Hahn on April 11.

Unopposed Republican candidates Commissioner James

who ran and won were 31st District Judge Steven Emmert, 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer, County Judge Richard Peet, County Clerk Susan Winborne, Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Mary Ann Carpenter and Precinct 4 County

Hefley. Senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison; U.S. Representative, Mac Thornberry; Attorney General Greg Abbott; Comptroller, Susan Combs; and Warren Chisum all ran as unopposed Republican incumbents.



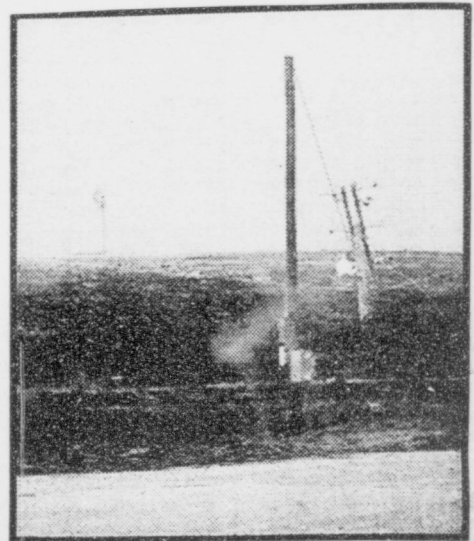
Fire broke out Tuesday afternoon on land southwest of town off of highway 287 near Joe Magee's.

Firestorm

next door to City Hall.

If you would like to give money, an account has been set up at the Bank of Commerce for those affected by the fires.

Persons who would like to donate household items can do so by calling the Red Cross coordinator, Mindy Reeves at 779-2700 or delivering them to the Biral store located



A lone windmill and burned broken electrical pole are all that stand on the corner of the overpass that turns and goes into Alanreed as many buildings and land were destroyed.

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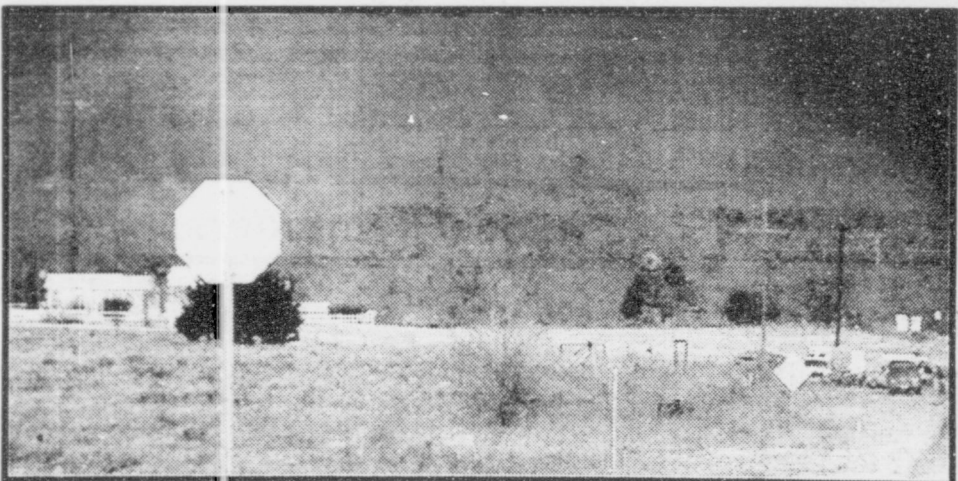
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Fire Jumps 273 three miles north of McLean Sunday evening, bringing the fire closer to McLean and causing one trailer house to burn.



Black Clouds of Smoke and flames of fire fill the sky over residents of the nine mile station and Kellerville Sunday resulting in the evacuation of the area. This home was saved by firefighters.

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Tough Decisions Lie Ahead For Panhandle Ranchers

The grass is gone, destroyed by fire. Hay is short. Soil moisture is almost non-existent. Some tough decisions lie ahead for ranchers caught in the wake of the recent fast-moving wildfires, a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist said.

"Something that is important, after they get through the emotional part of this, is looking at the long-term," said Dr. Ted McCollum, Extension livestock specialist. "The cold, hard fact is if we don't get any significant rain in the next several months, those rangelands that burned up aren't going to be able to

carry any cattle until next fall."

Ranchers need to realize that because of the drought in other parts of the state, hay supplies are very short, McCollum said. Hay, if any found, will have to come from some other part of the state, with transportation costs and logistics added.

Ranchers opting to continue feeding their animals have several options, he said.

Low quality hay can be supplemented with concentrated nutrients to balance out what the cattle need, McCollum said, but the biggest issue is trying to find the bulk feed the cattle need.

The other option may be

to get away from the traditional thinking of feeding hay and feed a more concentrated diet, he said. Fewer pounds of feed would be required, but the cattle would have to be fed in a trough or on the ground.

Cotton burrs are another option with some supplement, he noted. The other option to feeding is selling the cattle, he said. "This might not be the best time to be selling," McCollum said. "But they need to weigh the alternatives of selling now versus the feeding costs. Look at de-stocking partially or fully. The net loss or net gain of selling out now and buying back

later may be relatively the same as trying to figure out how to feed those cows for several months."

The problem is soil moisture, he said. The recovery of those areas is going to be slow. "If we get any rainfall in the next month or so, the recovery may be better than people think it is," McCollum said. "The key factor: can we get

any timely rainfall?"

But regardless of whether the rain comes, the carrying capacity is going to be a lot lower than normal. Where stocking rates average one cow per 25 acres, even with rain, ranchers would face stocking at less than half of that, or one cow per 50 or more acres. The range needs to be at 2 to 3 inches of growth on perennial grasses,

so it may be June before any grazing would be available, even with rain, McCollum said. Without rain, animals can't be put on the pasture until next fall.

Buying hay or finding pasture now is a temporary stop-gap management measure, he said. Without rain, all a producer is doing is delaying some decisions.



A tanker truck prepares for battle as smoke billows near the nine mile station Sunday afternoon.

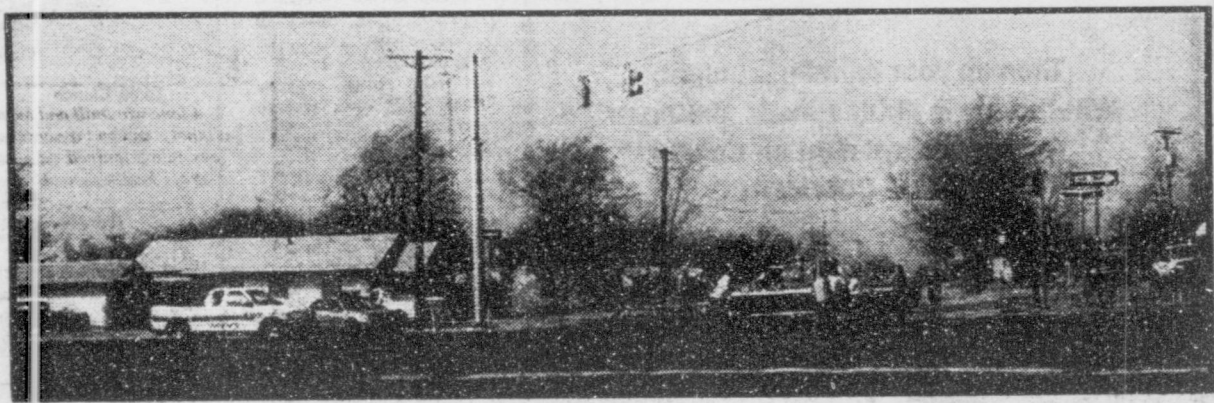


Flames roar and smoke billows on land northeast of the Morrow home on 287.

FARMER'S EQUIPMENT

Warehouse of chemicals, seeds & fertilizer

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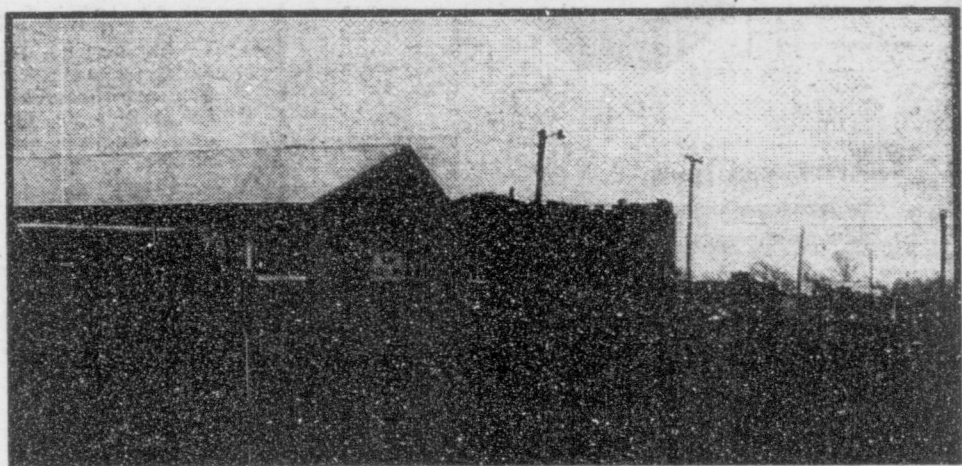
Mayor Bob Martin, City employee Alan Milton, Richardson's Towing Service and Gray County deputies set up a road block in McLean on Highway 271 to keep drivers out of harms way as fires engulf land from Lefors to McLean.

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OGE Trucks from Oklahoma came into McLean Tuesday morning to help begin the pole replacements for the many residents that were without electricity due to the fires that have swept across the Texas Panhandle.

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McLean Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 17 - Cynthia Glass McDonald, Christopher Flores, Patrick Windom, Bobby and Robbie Sanderson (A).

March 18 - Faris Jake Hess, Jim McDonald, Karen Williams, Bob and

Anita Thompson (A), Billie and Angie Billingsley (A).

March 19 - Mildred Hill, Walt Bailey, Jennifer Barker, Mike Bybee, Raymond C. Baker.

March 20 - Caroline Cole.

March 21 - Linda Haynes, Miranda McMordic

March 22 -

DPS Seize Marijuana Valued At \$477,090.00 on I-40 and McLean

McLean — One man was arrested this morning

on I-40 when DPS troopers found Marijuana inside the trailer towed by his vehicle following a traffic stop.

At 7:20 A.M., troopers stopped a 2006 Ford Expedition traveling eastbound on I-40, near McLean, for a traffic violation. After consent to search was given, 810 pounds of Marijuana was

found hidden in boxes in a U-Haul trailer towed by the Ford.

Arrested and booked into the Gray County Jail was 47 year old Raphael Amir of Sunrise, FL.

The Marijuana was believed to have originated in Tucson, Arizona and was headed for New York. The Marijuana has an estimated value of \$477,090.00.

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Local Obituary

PAMPA - Donna Walker, 58, formerly of McLean, passed away on Thursday March 9, 2006.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, March 11 at the Hillcrest Cemetery in McLean. Thacker Haynes conducted the service. Arrangements were by Bailey - Ware Funeral Home.

Mrs. Walker was born on April 4, 1947 in Pampa, Texas to Lester and Wanda Bailey. She was a homemaker and lived most of her life in the McLean area.

She is survived by 3 sons, Stacy Walker of Slidell, La., Clifton Walker of Winnie, and Matthew Walker of McLean; a daughter, Karen Hutchison of Pampa, her mother of Pampa, a sister Connie Thompson of Pampa, a brother Walt Bailey of McLean and 10 grandchildren.

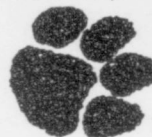
The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

Sirens Help McLean Residents In The Evacuation Process When Emergencies Occur

In the event that the City of McLean should suffer another occurrence like Sunday night, the sirens will mean the following:

- 1 Long Siren - Voluntary Evacuation
- 2nd Long Siren - Mandatory Evacuation

(At this time, emergency personnel will be traveling down the streets of McLean with the announcement also)



McLean Cowboy Church & the Arena of Life
Beginning a new year in 2006
McLean Cowboy Church & the Arena of Life will meet at 119 E. Third St. (One Block East of Main St)
Services are as follows:
Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening - 7:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to join us. Come as you are. Cowboy up and we'll see you there!

MCLEAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church of Christ 4th & Clarendon
Pastor Jim Rayne 779-2548
Sunday Bible School 10:00 a.m.
Worship 10:40 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible Class 7:30

New Life Assembly of God 4th & Main
Pastor Mahlon Richardson
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday night Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church 206 E. 1st
Pastor Kelly Raymond 779-2175
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church 2nd & Gray
Pastor Thacker Haynes 779-2049 & 779-2337
Sunday 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Sr. High Youth Alpha Chi 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Choir 7:00 p.m.

Heald United Methodist Church
Kellerville Road
Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Trinity Church Railroad Street
Pastor Larry Perkins 779-3207
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.
Life Groups-Sunday-5:00 p.m.
Solid Rock Youth & Sunshine Children's Ministry
Wednesday 6:00
Adult Bible Study-Wednesday-7:00 p.m.

Cowboy Church & The Arena of Life 119 E. 3rd
Ronnie Ferguson, Pastor - 779-2135
Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday evening 7:30 p.m.

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Fires Cause Millions Of Dollars In Damage..... Decision Help Offered To Panhandle Ranchers

Ranchers needing information to help make important management decisions due to losses from recent fires have a several educational opportunities, according to Texas Cooperative Extension officials. "After the Wildfires: Livestock and Range Recovery" meetings will be hosted by Extension, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency, throughout the Panhandle for the rest of March.

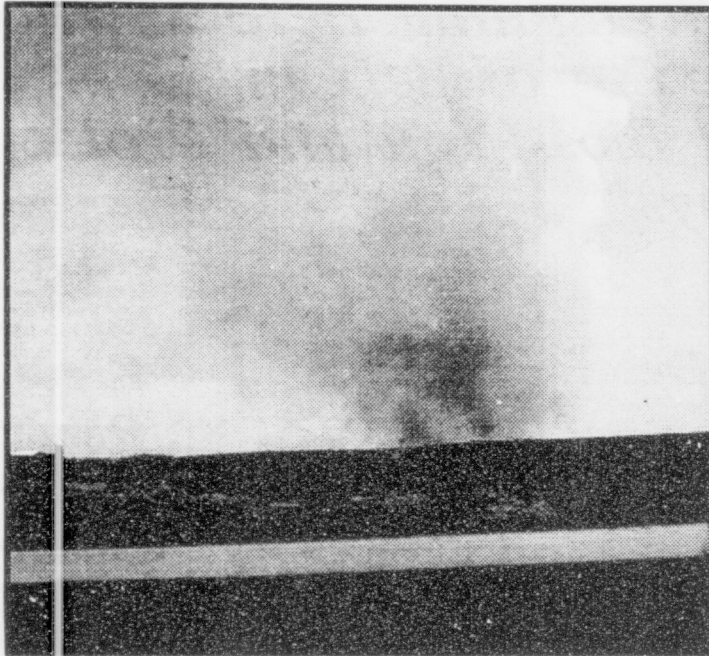
"If you have been affected by a wildfire, we encourage you to attend one of these meetings," said Dr. Bob Robinson, Extension regional program director for agriculture and natural resources.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- * March 22, 9 a.m., Amarillo National Bank-Borger, Third Floor Rig Room, 301 W. 6 St., Borger;
- * March 23, 9 a.m., Gray County Annex meeting room, 12125 E. Frederic, Pampa;

- * March 23, 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, 206 West 2 St., New Mobeetie;
- * March 23, 7 p.m., Family Life Center, 300 S. Carhart, Clarendon;

- * March 28, 9 a.m., Miami Childress; and
- * March 29, 11 a.m., Bura Handley Community Building * Club Room, 10th and Amarillo streets, Wellington.



Charred hills reflect damage that can happen with a fire as a new fire erupts Tuesday afternoon south of I-40 near McLean.

Tiger Track Schedule

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|--------|
| March 9 | Lejors | Cubs |
| March 10 | Lejors | Tigers |
| March 24 | Scratchford | Cubs |
| March 25 | Scratchford | Tigers |
| March 31 | Miami | Cubs |
| April 1 | Miami | Tigers |
| April 7 | Panhandle (District) | Tigers |
| April 12 | Panhandle (Area) | Tigers |

MCLEAN GOLF SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Feb. 27-28 | Wellington |
| March 6 | Clarendon |
| March 20-21 | Shamrock |
| April 3 | Pampa (District) |

Tennis

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| April 11-13 | Amarillo (District) |
|-------------|---------------------|

got news?
779-2141

Thank you Volunteers, The Town You Saved Was Ours

To those who have looked into the face of fire. To those that have provided medical services to those injured by the flames.

To those who have served a hungry or thirsty body. To those who kept drivers safe by blocking traffic. To those who helped a neighbor or friend.

"Thank You"

May the services you have provided come back to you in blessings.

The McLean News
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McLean Home Health
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C & H Supply
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779-3207

The Bank of Commerce
779-2461

Kirk's Auto Supply
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The McLean Care Center
779-2469

Packett's Grocery
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Thank You

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You Always!*

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Tulia
Canyon
Amarillo**

**Kress
Randall Co.
Potter Co.
Shamrock
Lefors**

FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

Oh Lord, please help this firefighter
To be skillful and brave.
Please let me never falter
When there are lives to save.
Be with my fellow firefighters
And ride with us each run,
From the moment we "suit-up"
Until the job is done.
Be with me as I guide a child
Through the dark and smokey haze
Give me the strength and courage
As I fight the deadly blaze
Lord, I put my safety in Your hands,
But in the chaos and the strife,
Help me act with selfless courage
God, let me save a life.

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Bailey-Ware Funeral Home
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POLITICAL CALENDAR

STATE OF TEXAS
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CARSON COUNTY
County Judge
 Republican Candidates

Lewis Powers
 Democratic Candidates
Jackie West

County Treasurer
 Republican Candidates
Denise Salzbrener

Virgil Frick
 Democratic Candidates
Dea Schroeder

Tax Assessor-Collector
 Republican Candidates
Jackie Lewis

Justice of the Peace
 Precinct 1
 Democratic Candidates
Bill Hinson

Gray County

Gray County Clerk
 Republican Candidates
Susan Winborne

Justice of the Peace.
 Precinct 2
 Republican Candidates
Mary Ann Carpenter

Co. Commissioners
 Precinct 4
James Hefley

The following candidates have paid a fee to have their name on this political calendar. Their disclaimer statements are on file at The Groom-McLean News for public inspection.

CITY OF GROOM
 employees may be contacted for after-hour emergencies by calling Slim Finck at 248-1416 or paging him at 342-8312; or call Bobby Ratterree at 248-0348 or paging him at 342-8433.

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AUCTIONS

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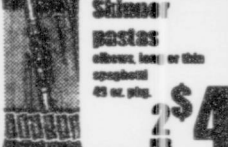
Post cereal
20 oz. Raisin Bran or
13 oz. asst. Postitos
3\$5



Re-Tel tomatoes
assorted
16 oz. can
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asst. 96 oz. liquid or
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galton **2\$3**

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26-34 oz. seasoned & cheese or veg./paric
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12 oz. Bar S
Meat Franks **69¢**

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meat Bologna **99¢**

14 oz. Payson's rug, or pedis
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8 oz. Payson's
chorizo **\$1.29**

12 oz. Land-O-Lakes® assorted
deli-shaved meats **2/\$5**

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sliced bacon **\$1.99**

Primo's® 1 lb. or 1 1/2
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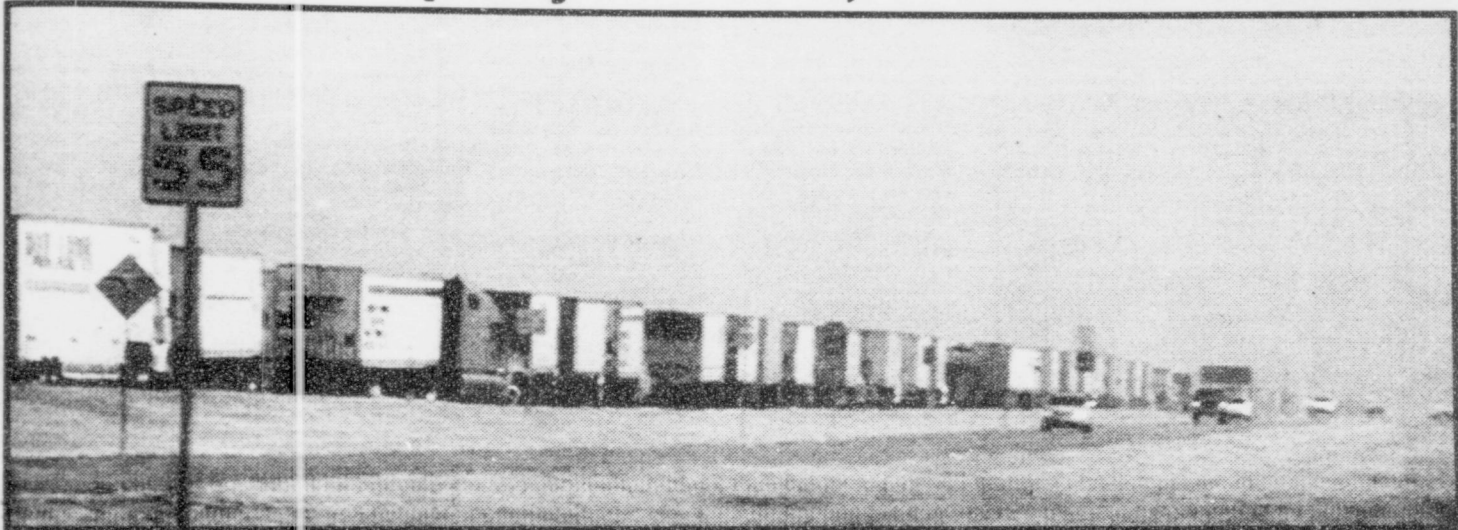
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Volume 80 Number 34

The Groom-McLean News 79039

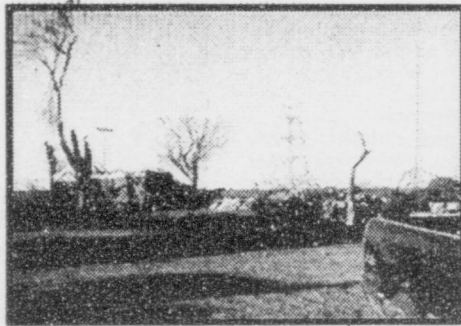
Thursday, March 16, 2006

Wind Blows Trouble For Local Emergency Workers, Property Owners, Travelers & Others



Traffic was backed up for at least 10 miles before Interstate 40 was closed completely from Amarillo to the Oklahoma line. Wild fires and a 10 car pile up were the cause of the re-routing of the traffic over to Highway 287. Texas Department of Transportation workers were called out to help with re-directing the traffic.

Schaffer Home Destroyed By Prairie Fire



The Sunday fires that swept the area by high winds were too much for local firefighters as the home of Monte and Sandy Schaffer was burned to the ground. They not only lost their home, but lost much of their farm equipment and semi-truck. The Schaffer home is located approximately 10 miles east of Groom.

An "ill" wind blew across the great staked plains. With it came destruction. People of the panhandle were forced to flee from their homes in several communities after prairie fires fueled by nearly 60 mile per hour winds threatened everything in its path.

Groom Firefighters and other volunteers were first called to action around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Smoke from the blazing prairie fire soon created enough smoke to cause visibility problems along Interstate 40. It was not long before there was

a 10 car accident that took the lives of at least 4 people and injured at least 6 more. Life Star was called out to help evacuate the injured. In one attempted landing, the helicopter had to make several attempts to line up in the high winds land safely. Most of the critically injured were sent to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo for treatment. Groom EMS set up a triage center in the Groom Community Center for a while to deal with the injured.

Along with nearly a million acres of prairie

and CRP grasslands, at least 25 structures were burned to the ground. At press - time, the News had confirmed that the Monte Schaffer home and the permit office at Lake McClellan all were completely destroyed. Howardwick Fire Department had a fire truck overturn. On board was a former Groom man, Joey Garcia. He was severely injured and is currently in Northwest Texas Hospital. Two other firefighters were severely injured in the accident.

Interstate 40 was

completely shut down for a good portion of the day. Traffic was backed up at one time from the mile 123 marker to the 113 exit, about 10 miles. Traffic was rerouted to 287 from Amarillo to Childress. At one time there were over 700 vehicles backed up at Clarendon. Highway 287 closed for a while near Hedley.

Firefighters and equipment were bought in from all over the Texas panhandle as well as Oklahoma and New

See FIRE, pg. 3

Community Calendar

A FUND has been established at the State National Bank for the benefit of Monte and Sandy Schaffer. They lost their home in the fires of March 12.

GHS NATIONAL Honor Society Induction has been rescheduled for April 10.

GROOM UIL Competitors will attend the District Meet in Miami on March 21.

THE NEXT AWANA's meeting will be on March 26, due to Spring Break. That night will be Camouflage night. Wear all your camouflage clothes!

TO VOTE by mail in the run-off election for Carson County Treasurer. Request a ballot by April 4. Vote early in person until April 7 at the Carson County Clerks office.

GROOM LION'S Club will host a Buffet Luncheon to benefit Groom's Summer Program for Kids on April 9th from 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. at the Groom Community Center. Keep watching the Groom News for more details!

CARSON COUNTY Storm Spotter Training will be held on Mar. 20. See the ad on page 2 and story on page 3 for more information.

| Tuesday Prices at McIntire Grain | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| White | \$1.27 |
| Yellow | \$1.25 |
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| Soft | \$1.21 |

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The Groom News

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Local Happenings

ILL OR RECOVERING

The following have health concerns and are ill or recovering: Jesse Baker, Norris Hoyt, and Joey Garcia.

DON'T FORGET

that this weekend is the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Good Luck to our local beauty contestants.

SWCD MEMBERS ATTEND 60TH ANNUAL NACD MEETING

The McClellan Creek Soil and Water Conservation Board members attended the 60th Annual National Association of Conservation Districts Meeting. It was held in Houston on January 30-February 2, 2006. The title given this years meeting was "Living a Legacy, Leaving a Legacy". Over 1,000

conservationist met to set policy, discuss key conservation issues, elect officers, recognize national award winners, and celebrate 60 years of conservation. They reviewed the Associations history and focused on the future of agriculture and conservation policies. Top leaders shared their visions for the association and operations of all districts nation wide.

Those attending were Bobby Euil Pool (McClellan Creek SWCD chairman) and wife, Marian, from Groom, Bill Gray, John Paul and Patty Dauer and Aubrey and Mary Lou Russell from Panhandle. These four days provided excellent opportunities to learn, network, and discuss new ideas and challenges. Representatives from partnering agencies addressed current growth potentials. Some of the meeting focused on the 2007 Farm Bill.

The conservation districts will be celebrating Stewardship Week, April 30-May 8, 2006.

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Good Health, Much Wealth, Fair To Be Held

To the residents of Donley County, Armstrong County & surrounding area, Thursday, March 30th, the community of Clarendon is once again hosting its popular Health and Wealth Fair on the campus of Clarendon College. This event entitled, "Good Health, Much Wealth, Your Choice Health Fair 2006" will be held at the Clarendon College Bairfield Activity Center between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Robertson Funeral Directors & NPS (National Prearranged Services), will have a booth set up for information and questions about pre-need funeral arrangements at the 2006 Health Fair. If you have any questions about directions to the Bairfield Building or for more information please contact us at (806)226-2626 or visit our website at www.robertsonfuneral.com

Birthday & Anniversaries

- March 16 - Lonny Brown
- March 17 - Conner Fields, Daniel Paul McLaughlin, Don Case, Nadine Thornton, Mrs. Michael F. Britten, Kim Lewellen, Mr. & Mrs. Evan Whitley (A).
- March 18 - Joe David Brown, Mike Britten, Todd Weinheimer.
- March 19 - Victoria Faith Vaughn, Sam Gabriel Thomas, Kay Burk, Boe Smith.
- March 20 - Mrs. C. Wayne Stroope, Vernon Baggerman, Nancy Brumley, Colby Linguist, Mr. and Mrs. Jack West (A).
- March 21 - Kenneth Babcock, Kay Case, Kay Lynn McLaughlin.
- March 22 - Nila Burgin, Sabrina Leven, John Webster Thomas.

Card of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate the people who went to the polls and voted for me. It means a lot to me.

The choices have now been narrowed down to two Republican candidates for the position of Carson County Treasurer and I need your support more than ever through the Run-off Election on April 11, 2006.

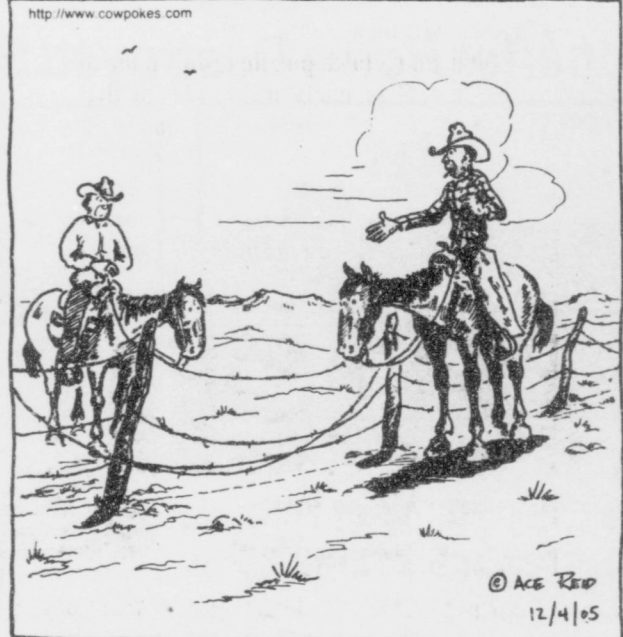
The election process works well when interested voters are involved. If you believe that I am the person who is best qualified to serve as your Treasurer, I need your vote.

I made the decision to run for office because I want to contribute to the success of Carson County. I want to be an active part of the government of Carson County. I am very proud to say that I live in the Carson County and the Texas Panhandle.

Your vote and your support will be greatly appreciated on April 11. I can't do it without you.

Paid for by Denise Salzbrener, P.O. Box 83, White Deer TX 79097

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Carson Co. Republican Treasurer Race To Hold Run-Off

Carson County Republican voters will be asked to, once again, go to the polls to cast their ballot in a run-off for the Carson County Treasurer's position. The two candidates, Virgil Frick and Denise Salzbrenner will be asking for the republican endorsement on April 11. Who ever wins this race will compete with Dea Schroeder in the general election in November.

Voters who voted in the Republican primary or voters who did not vote at all in the primary election are eligible to vote in this run-off election.

If you voted by mail in the primary and checked the run-off box you will automatically get a ballot mailed to you. If you did not, but wish to vote by mail you must request a ballot from the Carson County Clerk's office no later than April 4. The

first day for early voting in person will be April 3 in the Clerk's Office. The last day for early voting will be April 7, 2006

Election results for Carson County in the contested races were as follows:

Republican Primary

Governor Race: Rick Perry 585, Larry Kilgore 101, Rhett Smith 80 and Star Locke 34.

Railroad Commissioner: Elizabeth

Jones 427, Buck Werner 313.

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8: Charles Holcomb 305, Terry Keel 186, and Robert W. Francis 163.

State Representative, District 87: David Swinford 503, Anette Carlisle 378.

Justice, 7th Court of Appeals, District, Place 3: Walt Weaver 373, Pat Pirtle 345.

County Treasurer: Virgil E. Frick 305, Denise Salzbrenner 274, Leasha Hobbs 186, Veronica Hammer Willburn 120.

Democratic Primary

United State Senator: Gene Kelly 77, Barbara Ann Rodnofsky 59, Darrel Reece Hunter 27.

Governor: Chris Bell 114, Bob Gammage 42, and Rashad Jafer 8.

Lieutenant Governor: Benjamin Z. Grant, Maria Luisa Alvarado 46, Adrian De Leon 28.

Commissioner of Agriculture: Hank Gilbert 119, Kocadee Melton, Jr. 34.



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FIRE

Mexico. Two tanker helicopters were called in to drop water on some especially rough terrain.

The communities of Skellytown, Lefors, Old Mobettie, New Mobettie, Miami, parts of Alanreed, parts of Pampa, Lefors and others were evacuated. Area churches set up evacuee centers until the residents could safely return to their homes. Chapters of the Red Cross were called in. In Groom, local people pitched in to help provide sandwiches, water and support for the firefighters.

A fund has been established at the State National Bank to help the Schaffers. As a community, we need to say thank you to the firefighters and other volunteers for all they continue to give to our community.

Phone Number for American Red Cross

Any person that has been displaced due to the Panhandle fires, please call 1-800-297-2270 for assistance.

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Public Notice of Meeting

Groom ISD will hold a regular monthly School Board meeting on March 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the school administration office. There will be a public forum starting at 7:00 p.m. to take public opinion on the option of an early start date for the 2006-2007 school year. TEA has set the start date for next year on August 21st. Groom ISD would like to start on August 17th so that we will not go into June to complete the year.

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The Groom News

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Names Released In March 12 Fatalities

Groom- Yesterday between 11:30 am and 12:00 pm, because of heavy smoke and dirt, visibility on I-40 was reduced to near zero. Consequently a nine-vehicle pile-up occurred involving semi-trucks, a motor home and several passenger vehicles.

During this crash, four people were killed and six were injured. The fatalities were: 1) Susan Louise Schumacher,

female, 49 years of age, Grove, OK. 2) Lawrence Schumacher, male, 56 years of age, Grove, OK. 3) Alexis Burroughs, female, 14 years of age, Grove, OK. The three victims listed above were occupants of the same vehicle. The fourth occupant of this vehicle is the 15 year-old daughter of Susan and Lawrence and is hospitalized in Lubbock in stable condition. 4) Karen Lachelle DeWeese,

female, 46 years of age, Wagoner, OK.

The two other occupants in the vehicle with Karen are hospitalized in Lubbock. Their condition is

unknown at this time.

There were three other injuries in the accident, their condition is unknown at this time. More information will follow in the near future.



March 20 - March 24
Breakfast
Monday - Cold Cereal, muffins, juice and milk
Tuesday - Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, juice and milk.

Wednesday - Breakfast burritos, hash brown potatoes, juice and milk.
Thursday - Biscuits, gravy, juice, and milk.
Friday - Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice, and milk.
Lunch
Monday - Chicken Nuggets, green beans, mashed potatoes, hot rolls,

milk, and chocolate no bake cookies.

Tuesday - Burritos with chili& cheese, bean dip, pineapple, lettuce, chips and milk.

Wednesday - Chicken Fried Steak, ranch style beans, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, milk, and pudding with cookies.

Thursday - Spaghetti, salad, bread sticks, applesauce and milk

Friday - Ham or cheese with baked potatoes, broccoli with cheese, hot sliced bread, milk and sherbert.

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

to be held in Carson County
Monday, March 20, 2006
7:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.
War Memorial Building
500 Main Street ~ Panhandle
FREE TO PUBLIC
Hosted by Carson County Emergency Management

Top O' Texas CattleWomen would like to honor the local Ag Science teachers during National Ag Week. Our local Ag Science teachers work hard dedicating themselves to educating our youth about the various agriculture related industries. Many youth and their families are representatives of a large segment of the agriculture industry who have full time day jobs but love the land and a lifestyle close to nature. For many people, being full-time farmers and ranchers is expensive and unless you have a large operation, it does not produce enough income to provide for a family, therefore, many have full time jobs and agriculture is a second income. It also provides opportunities for the family to work and play together. Hundreds of youth and their families can be found attending the Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows exhibiting animals or participating in numerous agriculture related contests. The education and training for such contest is provided by our local Ag Science teachers and other agriculture related professionals. A large number of youth today would not ever experience the joys of nature, such as a newborn calf or raising a champion show animal or even hatching baby chicks from eggs, if our schools did not provide ag in the classroom. Top O' Texas CattleWomen salute.

All of the area Ag Science Teachers for National Ag Day, March 20th.

VOTE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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To all Volunteers, Our Sincerest Thanks!

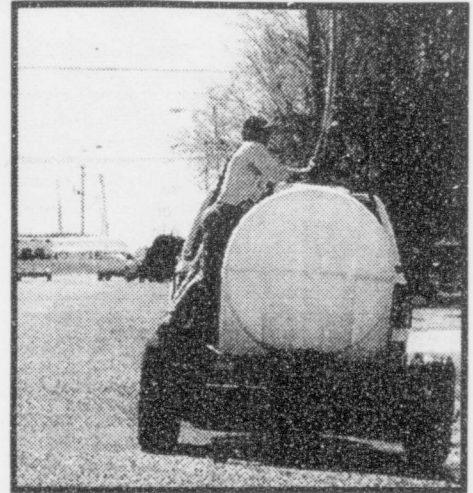
To all those who fought the fire, provided assistance with transporting water and fuel, provided refreshments for the firefighters, directed traffic, aided those injured, or offered prayer for those who were involved in this crisis, you are a HERO.
Thank you for all your efforts!

| | |
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| THE CITY OF GROOM 248-7979 | STOP N SHOP TEXACO 248-7977 |
| FRIEMEL BROTHERS 248-7115 | CIRCLE B MEAT CO. 248-7332 |
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| JIM & CAROLYN MORANIEC GOOD LUCK TIGERS | GROOM S & H GROCERY 248-0408 |
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| STATE NATIONAL BANK MEMBER FDIC * 248-7531 | GREAT PLAINS CROP SERVICES 248-7290 |
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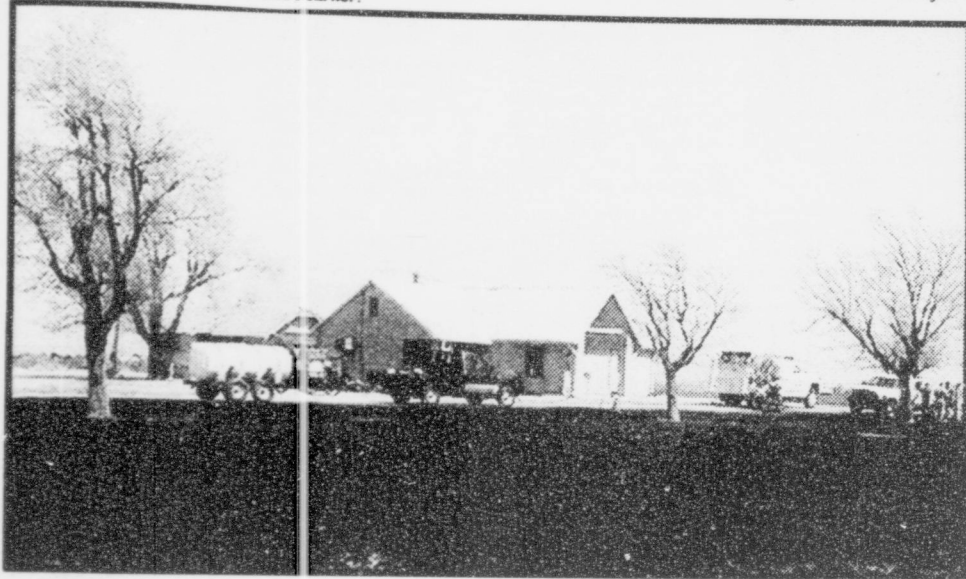
Fire Sweeps Area, Property Destroyed



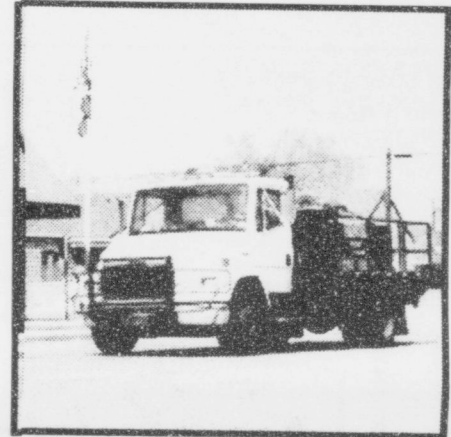
Pick-ups with tanks lined Broadway Street in Groom on Sunday. Groom's ambulance was put into service after an accident occurred at the 122 Mile Marker.



(Above) Sharon Jones was just one of the many volunteers who turned out to man the water pump loading tanks to be the staging areas to reload the fire trucks. (Below) Groom's fire department was just one of many that worked through the night to help extinguish the blaze in many area grass fires.



Lucille Britten's home is saved by fast acting fire fighters. 50 mile an hour winds drove the blaze that could have ended in disaster for this long time Groom resident.

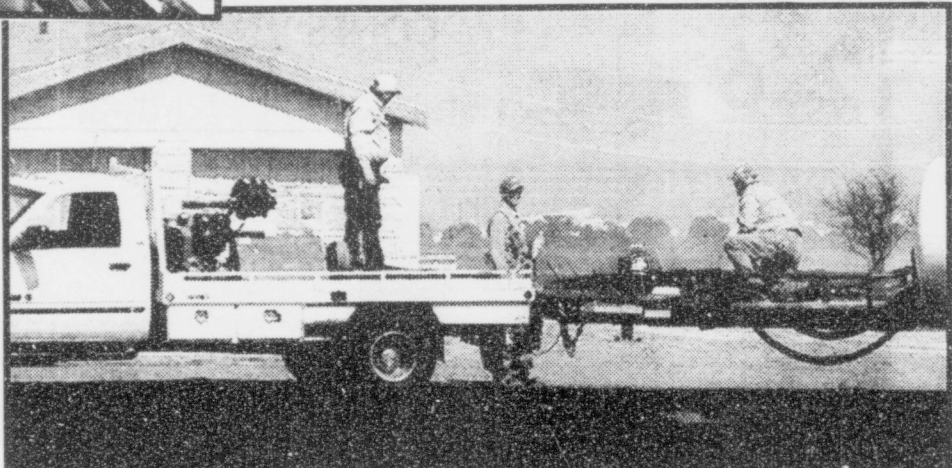


(Above) Nothing left but twisted scorched metal that was once the Schaffer's livelyhood, his semi truck. A fund has been set for them at the State National Bank.



Life Star makes a safe landing west of the Cross near Groom, in spite of 50 mile an hour winds.

Groom Fire Fighters put out a fire that threatened the home of Lucille Britten. Many hay bales still blaze in the background. This fire is thought to have been started by travelers who stopped by the side of the road.



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Livestock Caught in Prairie Fire Have Special Health Concerns

Livestock caught in the path of Sunday's 50-mile-an-hour wind swept fires in the Panhandle could suffer death and severe damage from burns as well as smoke inhalation. An estimated 700,000 acres burned in 14 different grass fires, taking out as many as 25 structures and causing seven fatalities. But the untold number is the amount of livestock injured and dead in the wake of the fire. As many as 25,000 cattle are estimated to have been on the burned rangeland, said Dr. Steve Amosson, Texas Cooperative Extension economist. Included in the damage is the loss of pasture, which was at a minimum already due to the drought, and the burned fences that can cost as much as \$10,000 per mile to replace.

"Find them, get them adequate nutrition and then consult your veterinarian," said Dr. Robert Sprows, assistant agency director of the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory Sprows.

"If they can be moved to unburned ground, it is best," Sprows said. "Get them to fresh water and then rotate their feeding area to prevent the build-up of pathogens."

The most important thing is to get livestock to high-quality forage with a protein and mineral supplement and good water, Sprows said. If the livestock don't get adequate nutrition and water immediately, their health can deteriorate rapidly. The fires came at a very inopportune time

for ranchers who are beginning the calving season, said Dr. Ted McCollum, Extension livestock specialist. Not only will there be damage to the animals, but the dry soil profile doesn't promise any recovery of those rangelands anytime soon unless significant rain falls. "We probably had a lot of calves that were laying out susceptible to the fire, as fast as it was moving across there," McCollum said. "They had no place to go. Also there will be a lot of mothers with potentially scorched udders. The calves that survived won't be able to suckled the mothers who have sore udders."

Analyzing injuries to cattle following a wildfire is important to minimize losses, said Dr. Floron

"Buddy" Faries of Texas A&M University in College Station, Extension program leader for veterinary medicine.

"It might look like they've made it and there was no visible physical damage," Faries said. "However, it's important to have them looked at by a veterinarian as soon as possible because there could be secondary problems that lead to infections and further problems."

Health disorders, such as burned eyes, feet, udders, sheaths and testicles, as well as smoke inhalation with lung inflammation and edema, are the most common problems, he said.


"One of the problems we've run into in the past is with the feet," said Ron

Gill, Extension livestock specialist in Stephenville. "It may take 10 days to two weeks for the damage to start showing. The cattle will start sloughing the hoof wall and become crippled." Extension and veterinarians are working on determining major symptoms to look for and what actions to take if lameness begins to appear, he said.

"To assure the welfare of the affected animals, veterinarians need to be consulted," Faries said. "If, in the event the animal is not going to be able to be treated, decisions concerning sending them to market need to be made immediately, before secondary complications develop." Faries advised having an animal evacuation and rescue

plan in place and implementing it ahead of a wildfire. The plans should include ways of moving livestock out of the fire danger zone and preventing any damages. This may include hauling the livestock out in trailers, or opening gates or cutting fences and releasing the livestock, allowing them to move to a safer place, including plowed ground or wheat pasture, he said. A fire danger zone is where the livestock risk inhaling smoke, he said, and will change according to the wind direction. Smoke can move for miles, and cattle that are not near the flames or heat could suffer some damage, Faries said. Contact with burning grass, weeds and brush causes immediate burns, he said.

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Macie Britten and Michael Britten To Wed April 29 In Immaculate Heart Mary

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Britten of Groom, Texas are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Macie Anne Britten to Barrett Robertson Ingram. Ingram is the son of Elizabeth Seay Glenn of Shreveport, Louisiana and the late, Dickie Glenn Ingram of Amarillo, TX. The couple plan to wed April 29th at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic Church, Groom, TX. The bride-elect is a graduate of Texas Tech University and is a Child Protective Specialist for the State of Texas. The prospective groom is of Austin, TX. He is the Service Training Coordinator for ASCO Equipment, Inc. in Lubbock.

W.D. Fajita Dinner Set For Sun., March 26

The 18th Annual Fajita Dinner in White Deer will be held Sunday, March 26, 2006. Everyone is invited to attend the special event at the Fellowship Hall, 101 West 8th Street. White Deer United Methodist Church is looking forward to a wonderful spring day to invite all to White Deer. Serving the all you can eat fajita dinner will begin serving lunch at 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Weather Top Story Across Country and Midwest With Tornadoes

Storms across the midwest and Texas panhandle drew considerable attention this past few days. Tornadoes killed at least 10 people across Kansas and primarily the southern Plains and the Ohio Valley. Winds are again expected to become higher than average across the panhandle causing more fire problems the end of this week with temperatures in the upper 60's and 70's.

Panhandle Draws National Attention



Top: The rubble left from panhandle's 60 mph winds that forced fires across area, leaving Bud and Sandy Schaffer homeless along with 6 families from Mclean and Alanreed.



Bottom: High winds hit Groom's Main Street sign sending it over 100 yards breaking a window.

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Fire Department Personnel report to the Fire Hall

4 Blasts - Tornado
Tornado may be imminent, take cover

5 Long Blast - All Clear

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Groom School District 2006 Tennis Meets

March 1- Amarillo Tennis Center
March 27 & 29 Groom Tennis Meet
April 11 District Tennis Meet
April 13 District Tennis Meet

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Groom School District 2006 Track & Field Schedule

| | | |
|----------|----------------------|---------|
| March 2 | Lefors | JH & HS |
| March 7 | Lefors | JH |
| March 8 | Lefors | HS |
| March 31 | Miami | JH |
| April 1 | Miami | HS |
| April 4 | District @ Lefors | JH |
| April 7 | District @ Panhandle | HS |
| April 12 | Area | HS |

Our Appreciation. . .

We'd like to say a tremendous thankyou to everyone who came out to help us combat Sunday's blaze. We are awed by the friendship, courage, and shear endurance shown throughout the trying day and beyond. We feel extremely fortunate to live in an area where such a generous reaction to misfortune is so seemingly automatic. God bless you all.

**Dean & Donna Burger
Ken & Lynn Burger
Chris, Emily,
Katelyn, & Logan Burger**

