

The Groom News

50¢

Volume 69 Number 34

The Groom News, Carson County, Texas 79039

50¢ Per Copy

Thursday, November 16, 1995

Christmas Contest Approved By Council

In a regular meeting of the Groom City Council, the Mayor called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mayor Greg Lamb, Alderman R.E. Cornett, Martin Hermesmeier, Danny Ashford, Jr., Ronny Fields and Howard Britten. Marcus Frank with Frank Systems For Business was a guest.

The Council was brought up to date on the present computer system that is not working correctly and the company (MDS) has gone out of business. Marcus Frank with Frank Systems For Business presented a computer program (Banyon Data Systems) to the Council. This package consists of utility billing with past due notices; fund accounting with G/L, payables, receivables, budgeting, check writing, reports, account history, payroll, and installation, for a cost of \$6,629.95. The City would need a modem with the cost of \$150.00. Making the total package \$6,799.95. After going over some other programs R.E. Cornett moved to purchase the BDS program at a cost of \$6,799.95 and Danny Ashford, Jr. seconded. The new program would not start running until after the first of the year.

(All members voted ayes on this motion and each motion following unless otherwise noted.)

Mayor Greg Lamb

opened the bids for the purchase of a new pick-up. The bids were as follows: Culberson-Stowers, Pampa, S-10, \$12,689.25 - 1996 1/2 ton, \$13,974.79; Chamberlain Motor Co., Clarendon, \$14,493.00; John Chandler Ford, Amarillo, 1996 F Series, \$13,072.00; Texas Dodge, Amarillo, \$15,347.53; Stevens Chevrolet, Hereford, \$14,777.33. It was decided to reject all bids.

On a motion and aye votes a 1989 3/4 ton pick-up from Texas Trucks out of White Deer with utility bed will be purchased. The price is \$6,512.35.

Kevin Kerlee was appointed as a delegate to the Panhandle Emergency Medical Services System.

Ken Burger was nominated for another term on the Carson County Appraisal District Board. All members voted in favor with the exception of Bobby Cornett, who voted no. State National Bank of Groom was accepted as the bank depository for the City of Groom.

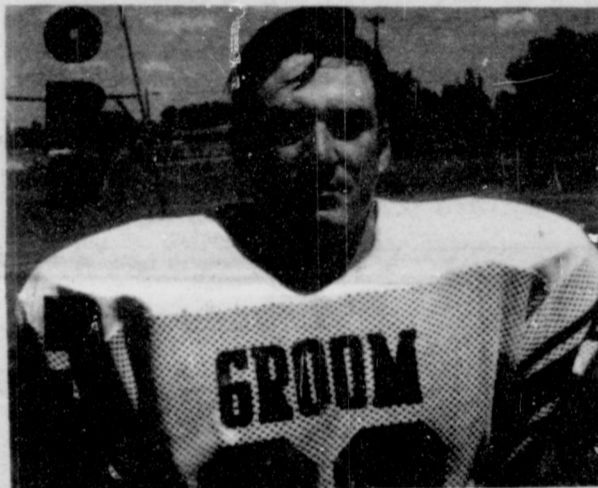
It was decided to approach the county concerning the use of county equipment and labor to clean out a drainage ditch running through Block 20, Lots 1-12.

The annual Christmas contest will be continued with first, second and third prizes.

The bills were paid and the meeting adjourned.



Brandon Crump



Harold Cave



Nick Ashford



Chris Martin

GISD Notified Of Performance Award

Groom School was notified by a letter from the Texas Education Agency dated October 27, 1995 that it will receive an award of \$1121.48 in January as part of the Texas Successful Schools Awards Program.

Groom School will be given this award for being in the Recognized Category. To be in this category, a school must have had at least 70 percent of all students and those in each student group passing each section of the TAAS, a dropout rate of 3.5 percent or less for all students and each student group, and an attendance rate of at least 94 percent. The change in TAAS performance from 1994 to 1995 had to be high enough so that the passing rate for all students and those in each student group would be at least 90 percent within five years.

Groom School just missed being in the

Exemplary Category by the smallest of margins. In this category, schools had at least 90 percent of all students and students in each student population group (White, African-American, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged) passing each section of the TASS, a 1993-94 dropout rate of 1 percent or less for all students and each student group, and a 1993-94 attendance rate of 94 percent or greater. These schools also had to have passing rates on the TAAS tests given at Grade 3 through 8 and 10 that exceed the spring 1995 average for all students and student groups.

How the award funds will be spent will be up to the Site Based Committee. This committee will host an assembly later in the year to recognize students and teachers for receiving this award.

First Snow Flakes Fall

The season's first snow flakes fell on Groom last Friday night. It was one of those typical Panhandle surprise storms that brought the first moisture the area has seen in a while.

Friday morning was warm and windy, with highs in the low 60's. About 5:00 p.m. the wind changed directions and the temperature dropped about 40° in about an hour.

Groom first received a short cloud burst that did nothing but raise hopes and wet the pavement. Shortly after a short but beautiful snow flurry followed.

The weather warmed nicely by Saturday morning and Sunday looked more like late May than early November.

Anyone want to predict a "White Christmas?" We will be glad to quote you.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THE JUNIOR HIGH Basketball schedule has changed. Groom Junior High will not play White Deer Junior High due to a mis-communication. The coaches are currently working on a game to fill those slots. See the updated schedule this week or next.

ANYONE INTERESTED in helping decorate Main Street for the Christmas Holidays needs to contact City Hall.

THE ANNUAL Christmas Home Decorating contest is once again planned. Participants should have their decorations up by December 15 to be judged sometime that weekend!

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS annual Bake Sale & Bazaar will be Nov. 18 from 9 am to 2 pm in St. Mary's hall. Raffle drawing for \$100 Scratch Lottery tickets will be at 1:30 pm.

GROOM VARSITY & JV teams play in Miami beginning at 5:00 pm on Fri., Nov. 17. They will play San Jacinto in Amarillo on Tuesday the 21st beginning at 4:00 pm.

TUESDAY GRAIN PRICES AT LOCAL ELEVATORS
Wheat-\$4.75
Milo-\$5.36
Corn-\$5.86

Groom Basketball Tips Off This Week

Groom basketball season is ready to kick off this week when the Groom Tigers and Tigerettes are playing Memphis at presstime and will play Miami, Saturday beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Several boys will be out with injuries for awhile. Brandon Crump, Andy Alexander and Josh Evenson are on the injured list. Sheridan Koetting will also be out for a few weeks recovering from a tonsillectomy.

The Junior High schedule will also change with the elimination of the White

Deer games and tournament. Coach Shirley Fields stated that the reason for the changes was caused by a mix-up with a Groom staff member and a White Deer staff member who are no longer at either school, when they set up the games last spring.

"We are working to fill these open dates and we have already replaced the Junior High Tournament. We will enter the Shamrock Tourney," she stated. "On January 18 through 20th."

The Cubs and Ettes will have an open date on Nov. 20.

The Groom News

Local Happenings

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TA MEMBER 1995
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Mike and Marla Britten attended the annual German Sausage Festival in Umbarger on Sunday.

Yes, I'm Braggin'!

If you watch Channel 7 around 7:30 in the morning, you might see Melody Burton in the Lewis Picture Frame commercial. She waits on Santa Claus right at the end of the commercial.

Correction!

The headline in the Matt Weinheimer, Kristen Largin wedding story last week was in error. The date in the story February 3, 1996 is the date the wedding is scheduled.

Kay and Kristy Case attended the West Texas Buff football game on Saturday and the German Sausage Festival on Sunday.

Steve and Pam Hutsell and family attended the WTAMU game on Saturday, honoring the late John Ayers. Laurel (Krizen) and the children were honored at the half-time festivities. Proceeds will go to the John Ayers scholarship fund.

School Enrollment Increases

The Groom Schools have increased their enrollment this week by three. Sarah, Kira and Trisha Broadway enrolled Monday, November 13, 1995. Sarah is a third grader, Kira a fifth grader and Trisha an eighth grader.

Their parents are Ernie and Dedra Blount. The family is staying with Monty and Sandy Schaffer until housing arrangements can be made. Welcome to Groom!

They moved here from Whitney, Texas.

Robert and Alice Kuehler went to Plainview last week to attend the funeral of Dr. Mary Bubliss, a longtime physician and tireless community worker. She was the mother of the Kuehlers' son-in-law, Paul Bubliss of Port Arthur.

Janie Britten, son Tracy, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Welsh, Angela and Andrea and Jonathan Robles left Lenorah-Grady Friday morning for Southwestern University, Georgetown. Angela and Jonathan competed in the state cross country meet Saturday afternoon. Angela placed seventh, running the two-mile course in 12:46. Jonathan placed twenty-third running the three-mile course in 18:29. Angela and Jonathan are juniors at Grady High School.

Melody Burton and Tuesday Whittenburg from Amarillo were in Groom to watch the basketball games. Melody's sister, April is a member of the Ettes.

PANHANDLE PLAINS basketball books are in. If you haven't received yours please contact Marcia Conrad at 248-7355. There are a few extra copies if you would like one!

Groom School Menu

November 20 - 24
 Monday
 Breakfast: Cold cereal, blueberry muffins, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Spaghetti, salad, Texas toast, sliced peaches, milk.
 Tuesday
 Breakfast: Waffles, peanut butter, sausage patties, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Chicken breast nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, pull apart bread, chocolate cake, milk.
 Wednesday
 Breakfast: burritos, hash browns, juice, milk.
 Lunch: Cheeseburgers, curly fries, pork & beans, yummy oatmeal cookies, milk.
 Thursday and Friday are Thanksgiving holidays.

Groom Birthdays Anniversaries

November 16 - Stetson Arletus Ruthardt, Amber Moore.
 November 17 - Norris Hoyt, Juanita Brown, Marguerite Burgin, Jill Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wade (A).
 November 18 - Patrick Britten.
 November 19 - Larry Brown, Carey Britten, Karla Ann Howard, Kecie Sue Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Howard (A).
 November 20 - James D. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Friemel (A).
 November 21 - Gordon Schaffer, Gregory Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Bichsel (A).
 November 22 - Herman Leven, John Weinheimer, Roy Martinez.

In an effort to better serve the community, The City of Groom will place a night depository box in front of City Hall. Regular water bill payments may be dropped at your convenience for posting the next regular business day.

Please remember that we attempt to include something for everyone within the pages of our paper. We realize that some folks enjoy finding fault and for those readers we thoughtfully include a number of errors within our publication.

Hop's Fuel & Tire Service

P.O. Box 340 • Groom, Texas 79039
 Station (806) 248-7919
 Office (806) 248-7414

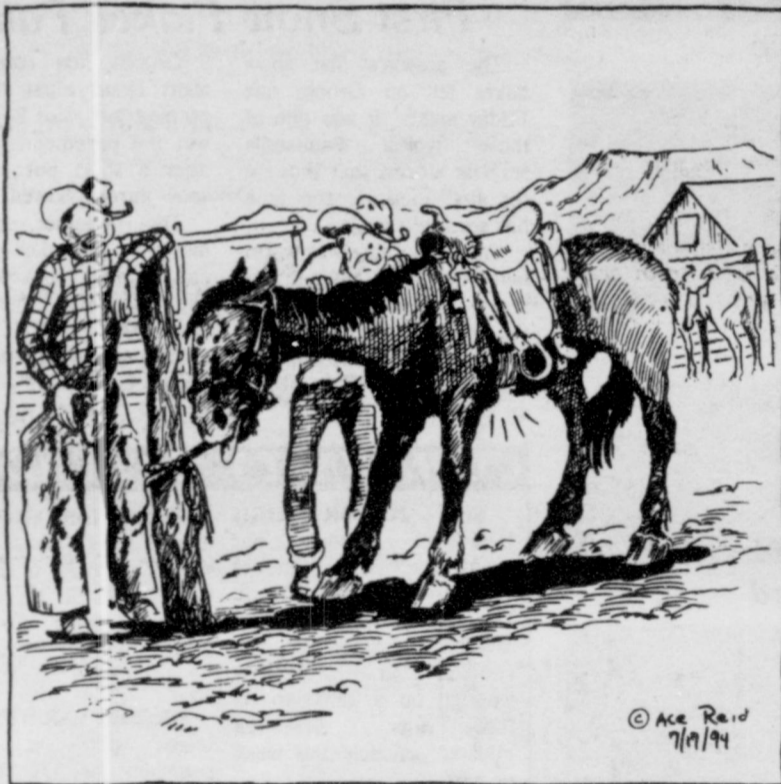
New & Used Tires
 For
 Trucks & Autos



ATTEBURY GRAIN INC.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"You said you wanted me to keep him from pitchin' if possible. I find a tight cinch keeps 'em from jumpin' quite so far."

"We don't think there is a better place to haul your grain."

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Grandview - 669-3961

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THE BANK

BUCKSHOT

by Barry McWilliams



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Nope

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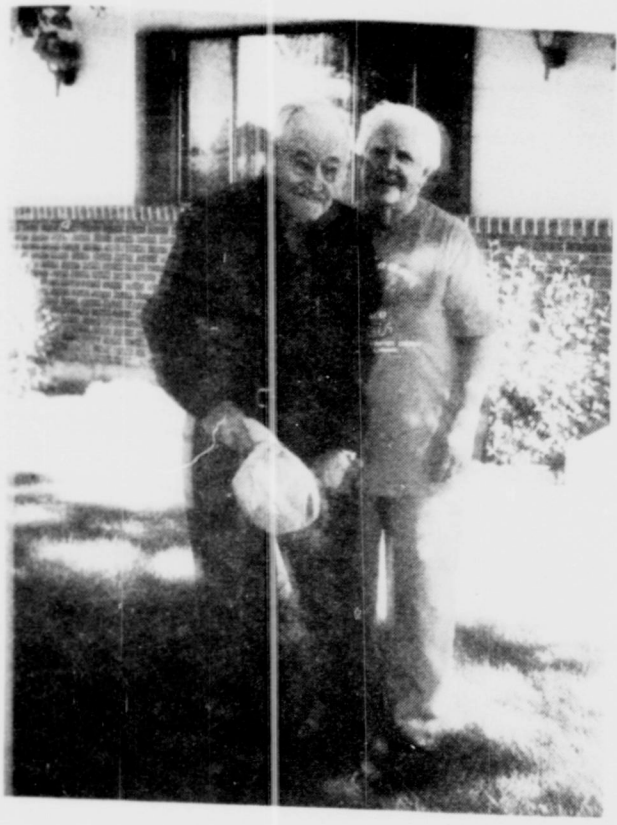
GROOM, TEXAS

MEMBER FDIC



248-7531

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Mr & Mrs. Marvin Frederiksen Celebrate 63rd Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Frederiksen of Fort Smith, Arkansas are celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary on November 22, 1995. Pauline Williams and Marvin Frederiksen were married in 1932 after attending Groom School. They have four children, Rev. William Frederiksen of

Pueblo, Colorado, Luelen Coughlin of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; Ronnie Frederiksen of Van Buren, Arkansas; and Norman Frederiksen of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Old friends can send them a card at 2009 S 71st Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903.

Hospice of the Panhandle Gets New Home

PAMPA - Hospice of the Panhandle announced the opening of its new offices at 800 N. Summer Street in Pampa, according to Sherry McCavit, executive director.

Dr. Raymond Laycock, long-time local physician, donated the building and surrounding land, valued at approximately \$125,000, to Hospice of the Panhandle earlier this year.

For two-and-a-half (2 1/2) months, the building has been renovated from a doctor's clinic into a suite of offices for the not-for-profit agency which provides care for persons suffering from terminal illness and their families, McCavit said.

"We are deeply indebted to Dr. Laycock for his generous gift. He made it possible for us to have a comfortable, spacious place for our offices allowing us to put our full attention on caring for our patients," McCavit said.

St. Ann's Rated One Of The Best

St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle has been rated among the best in customer satisfaction, according to a national survey of more than 150 nursing homes conducted by Parkside Associates of Park Ridge, Illinois.

The home is a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Amarillo and continues to benefit from close association with the sisters of Santa Maria Convent, administrator Charlie Wilson said.

St. Ann's is licensed for 52 beds and plans to increase capacity to 56 beds in early 1996, Wilson said.

Groom Tax Receipts Down

Groom recently received sales tax collections for the July, August and September quarter. Groom reported down 41.55% for the reporting period. City Secretary, Debbie Anthony reported that while the seems to be a huge decrease, it is actually the normal amount. In 1994 collections for this quarter were abnormally high due to an audit and back taxes being paid during this period.

Groom is down 0.34% for the year to date collections. While the new 8 1/2% sales tax has begun to be collected, it has not been reported yet for comparison. As you may remember the city recently passed on additional 1% Sales Tax, 1/2 cent for Economic Development and 1/2 cent to subsidize the Ambulance Department.

Eatmon Home Burglarized On Monday

The home of Judy Eatmon was burglarized Monday, sometime in the morning hours, after Mrs. Eatmon left for work. At presstime The News is still

awaiting information from the Carson County Sheriff's Department on the situation.

Unofficially, The News was told that they did have

a suspect in the investigation.

We have no official estimate of the value of the property taken from the Eatmon home.

GROOM JUNIOR HIGH will play Alamo Catholic here in Groom Mon. Nov.20 beginning at 4 pm.

If You Asked Me & Nobody Did

By Donna Burton
The Tigers may have had a losing season but they are definitely not losers. I truly admire their tenacity. Even in the face of overwhelming odds I can honestly say they have never quit and continued to give it their all. As the end of the season approached, boys made of lesser stuff would have given up. The Tigers kept hanging in there, giving 100%.

While it takes common sense not to let a winning streak go to your head, it takes plain old intestinal fortitude to keep getting up and facing the challenge that these boys have faced, week after week.

I admire the level stare they gave those giant teams they have opposed. It seems to say that "you may win the battle, but we plan to send you home limping."

I admire the way most of the fans, parents, cheerleaders and school faculty have stood behind them offering encouragement and helping shoulder the burden when they have lost.

They have also seemed to work together as a team, something of which I am extremely proud.

When you talk about an athletic program you have to consider what are your goals. If it's to win games, then perhaps we failed. But if it is to teach character, team work, and sportsmanship then I believe these boys could be considered "State Champions."

I am very proud to have been a part at least on the fringes of the 1995 football season. And more importantly, I am proud of the tigers. They are truly "Winners."

Just for all my out of town customers in and around Groom and McLean
1-800-842-3866
Keys Pharmacy
928 N. Hobart, Pampa
Merlin Rose, R.Ph.
Service You Can Trust
Complete Prescription Service
Convenient Mailing Service
Competitive Prices
Drive Up Window
EMERGENCY 24 HOUR NUMBER
669-3559

Christian Mother's Annual Stew Dinner, Bazaar & Bake Sale presents
The Sounds Of Christmas
Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Catholic School, Groom, Texas
100 "non-scratched" Lottery Tickets will be the Raffle Prize. Chances cost \$1.00 each. (Drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m.. You need not be present to win.)

Groom Flying Service
Craig Howard
New High Clearance SPRA-COUPÉ, 56" Frame to Ground, Spray Heights to 92"
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OR (806) 248-7977
Bill & Norma Jean Homer

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When someone uses "economy" or generic steel metal to repair your GM vehicle, installation parts may not fit properly or could result in premature rusting. So insist on genuine GM parts. They're designed for your GM vehicle and built to strict GM quality guidelines. Ask for genuine GM parts. They're backed by a Limited Lifetime Warranty.
"See us for details."
Culberson-Stowers
Pampa, Texas
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Mr. Goodwrench

GHS 2nd Six Weeks Honor Roll

Senior: Nick Ashford, Sandie Conrad, Terry Eatmon, Adam Odor, Sabrina Schaffer.
 Junior: Courtney Burgin, Brenda Fields, Stephanie Ollinger, Justin Ritter.
 Sophomore: Melissa Anthony, Tami Ashford, Toby Burgin, Mary Hutsell.
 Freshman: Dean Fields, Wyatt Weinheimer.
 8th Grade: Dustin Babcock, Allison Eatmon, Jessica Kepley.
 7th Grade: Marci Babcock, Brooke Britten, Chase Holland.

6th Grade: Cassie Ashford, Candace Bohr, Garrett Britten, Wyatt Britten, Hugh Weinheimer.
 5th Grade: Jill Britten, Lauren Crowell, Doug Fields, Stephany Fraser, Amanda Martin.
 4th Grade: Clay Britten, Blake Howard, Caren Howard, Faith Looten, Owen Weinheimer.

A-B Honor Roll
 Senior: Clint Babcock, Craig Baker, Kay Case, Harold Cave, Jeremy Chavedo, Tamera Cockrell, Brandon Crump, Stanley Homer, Scott McLaughlin, David Monoz, Suzy Pool, David York.

Junior: Andy Alexander, Buck Babcock, Leo Britten, Abdon Carrillo, Sean Crowell, Christina Galvan, Michael Lewis, Ray Lott, Julie Richardson, Brad Sustaire, Scott Weinheimer, Curtis Whatley.

Sophomore: Kay Britten, April Burton, Jimmy Chavedo, Angela Conrad, Jennifer Lewis, Martie Phillips, Michael Stephens, Mary Thomas.

Freshman: Blake Barnett, Cody Britten, Josh Evenson, Jeremy Lewis, Katrina Meaker, Marc Miller, Jacey Richardson, Dara Whatley.

8th Grade: Travis Britten, Evan Crowell, Carrie Davis, Jodi Homen, Sarah Hutsell, Chris Ollinger.

7th Grade: Skye Brown, Russell Conrad, Sarah Looten, Courtney Sustaire, Grant Weinheimer.

6th Grade: Staci Barnett, Cody Bivens, Karri Britten, Krisanne Davis, Luke Pavlovsky, Clay Ritter.

5th Grade: Brett Britten, Lainie Britten, Brin Burgin,

Amanda Conrad, Heather Day, Heather Leven, Amber Moore, Lance Ollinger.

4th Grade: Lorri Britten, Jennifer Jenkins, Britteny Martin, Cody Schaffer, Jamie Vaughn, Lillian Wakefield.

Tigers Battle The Shamrock Irish

By Steve Lott

Our young men did a great job considering they were fighting the elements and the number 8th ranked team in Class 1A. Shamrock has averaged holding opponents to 7 points per game. We were able to score two touchdowns against them, something only three other teams have done.

Leo Britten had a super night, finishing with 14 tackles and 1 assist. Toby Burgin and Brad Sustaire each had 8 tackles and Brad had 3 assists and threw one touchdown pass.

Nick Ashford led all blockers with a 79% average and had 6 tackles with 3 assists.

The leading rusher was Harold Cave. He had 11 carries for 110 yards.

The seniors finished the year like they started. They played hard, never gave up,

In State Fiscal Year 1995, which ended August 31, the Consumer Protection Division received more than 36,000 complaints - the most ever. Nearly half of these complaints fell into 10 familiar categories; the are called the Top 10 Consumer

Complaints in Texas. This year, they were:

- #1 Direct Mail Advertising
- #2 Telemarketing Companies
- #3 Debt Collection Agencies
- #4 Used Motor Vehicle Dealers
- #5 Long Distance Service Companies
- #6 General Automotive Repair Shops
- #7 Landlord/Tenant Disputes
- #8 Credit Reporting Agencies
- #9 New Motor Vehicle Dealers
- #10 Mortgage Companies

If you have a complaint you may fill out a consumer complaint form. Provide all the information they need to handle your complaint. For more information about consumer issues, or to receive a consumer complaint form, please call your nearest Consumer Protection Office or call (800)621-0508.

Doctors Paid More For Same Work

Physician salaries skyrocketed in the mid 1980s despite no increase in the number of patients treated or hours worked. Orthopedic surgeons experienced the sharpest pay hike, with an average salary increase of 63% over five years, ending the 1980s with an average of \$278,000 per year.

and continued to encourage the other players. I am very proud of each and every one of the fine young men who played.

They went out every week and worked to get better and never complained or made excuses for the losses. They are a great bunch of young men.

I also want to thank all of those who stayed with us through thick and thin. This is what makes Groom such a nice place to be. Your undying support for your kids is really appreciated and it does make a difference.

And to the writer of the anonymous letter. I sincerely apologize for not producing a climate that would have made you feel comfortable in coming and talking to me. If you had, you would have seen I have done those things you recommended.

Now Selling Winter Cattle Insurance



Brumley Insurance Agency

Johnny Brumley, Agent
 Groom, Texas

Office, 248-7550 Home, 248-7315

GROOM TIGER FOOTBALL 1995

Congratulations on a Great Season!

You faced overwhelming odds with PRIDE And DIGNITY!

You never QUIT!

We are PROUD to say that WE ARE THE FANS OF THE GROOM TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM!

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- Groom Flying Service
- Mighty's
- Farmer's Equipment
- Groom Dairy Queen
- Keith Barkley Auto Repair
- Circle B Meat Co.
- Bivon's Automotive
- M.R. Tire Service & Car Wash
- Groom Grocery
- Groom News
- Attebury Grain
- State National Bank
- The Pat Britten's
- Fred Lunsford
- Terry Simpson
- The Ben Ingham's
- The Billy Field's
- The Donald Ritter's
- The Dan Martin's
- The Jim Burton's

Good Luck In Basketball, Groom Tigers & Ettes

School Board Approves Personnel Policy

The Groom School Board met in regular session Monday night. All members were present with the exception of Joe Longway. Also present were Ben Ingham, Superintendent; Joyce Hutsell, Business Manager; Debra Addy, Steve Lott, April Burton and Christy Galvan representing the

Student Council and Donna Burton, representing The Groom News. April Burton and Christy Galvan presented a proposal to the board to amend the student dress code to allow shirt tails to be worn out. The board discussed the issue at length. The issue finally died on the table for lack of a motion.

The board approved the personal leave policy as was discussed during the last meeting. The policy was approved by the district's attorney. The policy is as follows:

"Personal leave shall not be used immediately preceding or following a school holiday nor on the first or last day of a grading period nor within the first two or last two weeks of school nor for more than three days per 6-weeks period. Prior approval must be obtained from the principal.

At the present time, we offer two "emergency/personal" days in addition to the state mandated days. Our local days cannot be accumulated nor transferred."

The superintendent announced the AEIS Report. The school will be

awarded \$1,121.48 for its Successful School Recognition. The Superintendent is planning a public presentation when the award comes through.

Head Coach Steve Lott discussed games in the works for the 1996 football season and possible district alignments. February 1st will be the alignment meeting for the 1996 season.

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel for the '96-'97 school year. No motions were made as a result of the discussion.

Ken Burger was the board choice for the Appraisal District representative.

The meeting was adjourned after reviewing the Business Managers report.

Japanese Health Care Cheap and Effective

Japanese companies pay \$700 annually per employee for health insurance, as compared to \$3,500 that American companies pay. Every Japanese citizen is covered, and they have the world's longest life expectancy.

Biology Class Takes Field Trip

Sophomore Biology class students recently took a field trip to Amarillo College. Instructor Dan Porter demonstrated a DNA technique.

Students looked on as the extracted DNA was dyed, then placed in a gel-like substance. An electrical charge is applied to the matter to separate the DNA into bands.

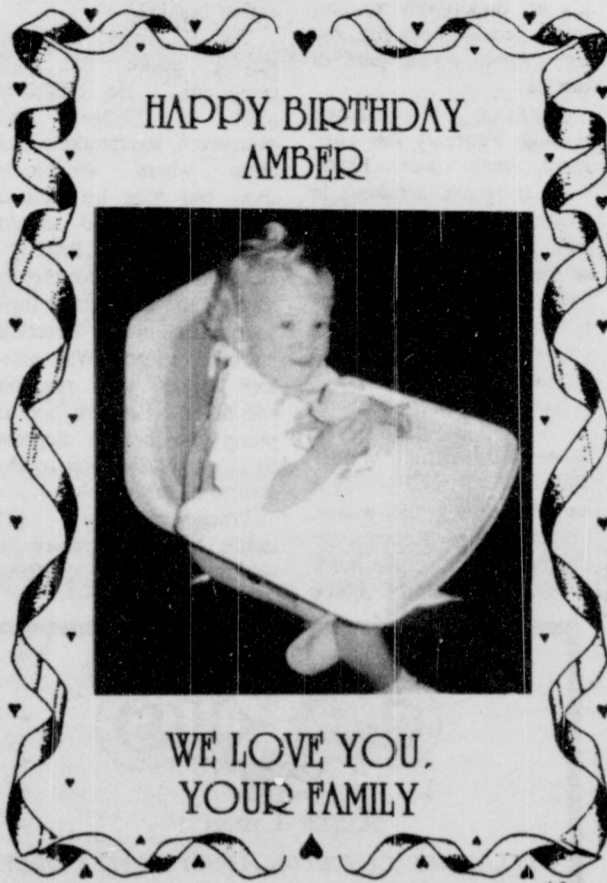
Students used the separated bands to match the sample to known and unknown samples.

Terry Simpson, Groom instructor and sponsor stated that these types of field trips make the subjects much more alive to the students.

"With all the exposure these students have had to DNA banding in recent months, they are much more interested in how the actual process takes place. While this procedure was extremely simple compared to the complex procedures in a criminal case, it sparks the interest of many students to find out more.

The group also enjoyed a meal at McDonalds, before returning to Groom.

Rebecca Conrad, was in season for the Tigers & Groom to watch the first basketball games of the Ettes.



Groom 4-H is taking orders for Poinsettias!

6" Pots • 15"-18" High
With 5 Blooms
Colors To Pick From
**Red • White
Pink • Mixed**
Contact Any 4-H Member!
Guaranteed Delivery By December 8th or 9th

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Panhandle Chamber of Commerce

TRADES FAIR

NOVEMBER 18, 1995
9 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Located at the County Ag Barn 814 E 3rd

Take Precautions With Winter Driving

Freezing temperatures, ice, snow, sleet; for some it's an opportunity to stay inside near an open fire, but for others, it's a part of driving.

During November through February last year, there were over 19,000 weather related accidents in Texas. Trooper L.B. Snider with the Texas Department of Public Safety stated that with taking just a few precautions, many of those collisions could have been avoided.

Trooper Snider went on to say that skidding is always a threat but "Mother Nature's tricks" seem harshest during the winter. Forget your summertime driving habits, "replace quick acceleration and quick

braking with slow and gradual acceleration and earlier braking."

Try to avoid skids by staying aware of road conditions. Be especially alert to bridges and overpasses, intersections and areas where windblown snow can hide ice riddled roads. If a skid should occur, "DON'T PANIC". Back off the accelerator, stay off the brakes and turn your wheel in the direction you want to go. With anti-lock brakes, your reaction will differ. Be sure not to pump the brakes and depress them evenly until you regain control of the vehicle.

When traveling: (1) insure that your vehicle is winter ready by checking

your battery, tires, windshield wiperblades and anti-freeze; (2) don't be a "peep hole" driver, remove all ice and snow from all windows; and (3) start early; allow time for traffic delays and for rest periods, adjust

your speed for the road and traffic conditions. Remember, posted speed limits are for ideal conditions and winter driving may require slower speeds.

HEALTH FACTS

Health Fraud In Billions

Fraud and abuse in the health care industries cost the U.S. \$80 billion in 1992, which is ten cents out of every dollar spent on health care.

HEALTH FACTS

Health Crisis

Nearly 1 out of 5 Americans report they or a family member are locked in a job, afraid to accept a new position, because they would lose their health insurance.

Mr. Gatti's

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The McLean News



Commerce Bank Building No. 5 Thursday November 16, 1995 779-2141

Riley Nominated For Excellence Award



Riley was presented a certificate from the University of Texas Ex-Students Association, and the University of Texas College of Education. "We are extremely lucky to have Mrs. Riley and other teachers of her caliber on staff," stated Mr. Griffin, Superintendent. "We are really proud of her and congratulate her on this honor."

Jacquelyn Riley was honored at Tuesday night's McLean Board of Trustees meeting. Riley has been nominated for the 1996 Texas Excellence Awards for Outstanding High School Teachers.

Riley teaches Secondary English at McLean School. She has been a staff member for 21 years.

The University of Texas will select 10 of the 188 nominees to come to the campus in Austin for an awards ceremony.

Council Approves Bid For Museum, Fire Hall Roof

The McLean City Council met in regular session this week. Members accepted bids to re-roof the Devil's Rope Museum and the City Fire Department. Parsley Sheet Metal & Roofing was given the \$74,020 bid to do the work which will include completely replacing the roof of the fire department.

City Engineer, Dwight Brandt stated that the wood was literally rotting away on the fire department building.

The replacement will have a ten year warranty. The project will begin in January.

Bids were rejected on three other buildings.

Brandt also reported that work is beginning for the installation of utility lines to the former Dairy Queen building on the west end of town.

Aldermen decided to seek a grant to have the water

tower repainted. It was learned earlier this year that the exterior paint contained lead.

In other business, the council voted to give full time employees a \$100 Christmas bonus and part time employees a \$50 bonus.

They accepted a contract from El Paso Natural Gas and raised the City Secretary's salary \$100 per month.

Reminders

McLEAN TIGERS & Lady Tigers will be playing in the Lefors Tournament Nov. 16-17-18. On Tuesday the teams will play Ft. Elliott, here beginning at 6:30 pm.

Help Can The Principal!

The National Honor Society and the McLean Lions Club are sponsoring the Canned Food Drive starting Monday, November 13 through Wednesday, November 22. Help move Mr. Callum out in the hall by filling his office with canned food for the food bank. The class that brings the most cans will be honored with a pizza party given by the Lions Club. Please support this worthy cause.

McLean School Calendar

- Thursday, November 16: Picture Day
- Lefors Invitational Basketball Tournament
- Junior High Basketball vs Alamo Catholic beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 17: High School Basketball vs Alamo Catholic beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 18: FFA Area Leadership Contest - Clarendon.
- Lefors Basketball Tournament Finals at 7:30 p.m.

THE DON & SYBIL Harrington Cancer Center mammogram has been rescheduled to December 1st at 9:30 to be held at the Lovett Memorial Library. Please call and make an appointment today. 1-800-377-4673.

McLEAN AREA Chamber of Commerce announces plans for Winterfest '95 on Saturday, December 9th. Activities will include Arts & Crafts Fair, Bake Sales, Hay Rides, Visit From Santa, Tree Decorating, Raffle, Caroling and a Christmas Pageant. Mark your calendars now and plan to be where the fun is - McLean, Texas Winterfest '95 from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call 779-2428.

Baby Dies In Crash

A one month old child was a victim of a one car accident two miles east of McLean last week. Willie Frank Robinson III died in the accident that was caused when the driver of the 1994 Explorer fell asleep. Kay Ann Duncan, 31, and mother of the child, swerved and rolled the vehicle ejecting the child. A passenger, John Hopson, 50,

was also asleep in the vehicle at the time of the accident.

Investigating DPS officer, John Holland, stated that a child safety seat was properly installed in the vehicle but the child was not properly buckled in.

Both Duncan and Hopson are juvenile probation officer in California.

Lady Tigers Beat Shamrock

By Bonnie Hauck
Tiger Rag

Tuesday, November 7, at 5:30, the Lady Tigers played their first scrimmage against the Shamrock varsity team. The Lady Tigers are putting together a new team this year led by Senior Heather Hess; returning Juniors Shanna Dent, Kristi Tidwell, and Tanna Shipman; Sophomores Shaley Stalls, Lorin Hall, Lori Hefley, and new comers, Freshman Vanessa Glass, Rachel Galley, and Sara Brown.

The Lady Tigers led in the first quarter by 27 to 19 with Hess leading the scoring. By halftime the Lady Tigers led 53 to 27, aided by Shaley Stall's three point pockets, and Vanessa Glass's multiple baskets. By the third quarter the Lady Tigers had the Shamrock defense out hustled by Rachel Galley's high jumping rebounds and Lori Hefley's steals. The score in the fourth quarter was 70 to 38, defeating the Shamrock team.



Veterans Honored By Elementary

Dressed in red, white, and blue with their American flags held proudly, the students of McLean Elementary honored Veterans Day with a program of patriotic songs, poems and recitations.

The sixth grade class shared a brief background of why we celebrate

Veterans Day and the seventh grade class read poems commemorating historical events. Several patriotic songs were sung. Among the honored veterans present was the Commander-In-Chief of the McLean V.F.W., Mr. Mel Pickett.

The program gave the

students an opportunity to show their appreciation to the veterans who served our country.

Sixth graders participating in the program were Teddra Simmons, Randi Jo Riley, Chris Sparling, Jacob Eddleman, Ashley Comer, Nikki Hefley, Sara Hall, See Veteran's, pg. 9

Tigers End Season With Win

By Mike Stone and Jonathan Galley

McLean Tiger Rag Staff
The Tigers went out on a winning note Friday night when they destroyed the Follett Panthers 48-14 at Follett. The game was paced with a fierce running attack featuring senior back Jeremy Crutcher and sophomore back Chris Flores. The Tiger's defense also overpowered the

Panthers leaving them scoreless in the final three quarters.

Leading all stats was Crutcher who rushed for 187 yards and 4 touchdowns on 33 carries. Chris Flores had a good night as well rushing for 148 yards and 3 touchdowns on 15 carries. The Tigers had 340 yards of total offense.

Head coach Jerry Miller said, "We had very good blocking, ball handling and

excellent defense. This was a good way to end the year to send the seniors out on a winning note and have a victory to carry over for the returning players."

The game capped off the Tiger's season, leaving them with a record of 4-6 over all and 3-2 in district. The Tiger's would like to thank the loyal fans who gave support throughout the season.



Linda Syfrett pantomimes "A Jolson" at the Birthday Party recently. The party was at the McLean Care Center.

**Cubs & Lady Cubs
1995-96 Basketball Schedule**

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Nov 13	Samnorwood	There	6:30
Nov 16/17/18	Lefors Torney	There	TBA
Nov 20	Hedley	Here	5:00
	(Girls & 2 Boys Games)		
Nov 27	Miami	Here	5:00
	(2 Boys Games)		
Dec 11	Samnorwood	Here	6:30
Jan 15	Hedley	There	5:00
	(2 Boys Games)		
Jan 22	Miami	There	5:00
	(2 Boys Games)		
Jan 29	Lefors	Here	6:00
Feb 1-3	Hedley Tourney	There	TBA



Collene Stewart's yard is all decked out for autumn.

Please join the family of
Cliffie Heasley

in celebrating ninety years
of life and love.

Nov. 19, 1995

1 - 3 p.m.

Devil's Rope Museum

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McLean, Texas

779-2225

You're presence is more
cherished than gifts.

Briefs

Visiting Mary Lou and Dale Glass over the weekend was Fachel and Sandi Kramer from Skellytown.

**Tax Collections Show
Decrease For McLean**

Tax collections for the July, August and September quarter were recently paid. McLean showed a 19.26% decrease from this time last year with sales tax payment of \$1,832.73 compared to last years \$2,269.93.

McLean's year to date payments have increased 4.85% over 1994. The collections for the year to date for 1995 are \$20,054.89, year to date in 1994 were \$19,126.15.

McLean Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 16 - Kaylee Shank, Pearl Lerner, Connie Dwyer, Bob Glass.

November 17 - Jean Bohiar, Cas Dale Barker, Bobbi Stalls, John McMordie.

November 18 - Lynn Stilwell, Amanda Leigh Cline, Jimmy Williams.

November 19 - Essie Howard, Truman Smith, Mary Lou Glass, Ray Dwyer, Waidean Cheatham, Jeremy Thomas.

November 20 - Valerie Joiner, Edith Bybee.

November 21 - Destry Magee, Stanley Lamb.

November 22 - Dale Barker, Seth Brown, David Crockett.

McLean School Lunch Menu

November 20 - 24

Monday
Breakfast: Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

Lunch: Stewart Chicken Spaghetti, broccoli, salad, fruit, bread sticks, milk.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Donuts, fruit, juice, milk.

Lunch: Haynes Lasagna, green beans, salad, fruit, bread, milk.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Cereal, toast, juice, milk.

Lunch: Billingsley grill cheese sandwich, veggies, chips, fruit, milk.

Thursday and Friday, there will be no school for the Thanksgiving holidays.



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Time And Date
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For More Information

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The Same Day If Necessary

211 N. Main, McLean, Texas

Alanreed News

By Lena Carter
The Twentieth Century Study Club met November 9th in the home of Mary Groves with Loree Barker as co-hostess.

The meeting was opened by President Avalee Crockett. The Club Collect was recited in unison with Lena Carter leading. Minutes were read by Laura Edleman and approved as read. Old business was selecting of a menu for the Christmas party, gifts and program place were decided. Each member volunteered food for the dinner at 2:00 p.m., December 14th in the Church of Christ annex. Roll call was "A favorite play or toy from my children" and was answered by members Relia Ayres, Loree Barker, Laverne Brooks, Lena Carter, Avalee Crockett, Laura Edleman, Mary Groves, Cliffie Heasley, Safrona Pettit and one visitor, Loyce Murray. The program was given by our visitor, Loyce Murray as Loree Barker was too hoarse to participate. All enjoyed it. Refreshments of sandwiches, pickles, nuts,

cheese crisps, olives, candies, and apple pie, coffee and spiced cider were served by the hostess'.

Denna Tidwell and Nora Dragoo were in Pampa on Thursday.

Dixie Crockett accompanied her parents to Odessa during the weekend.

The Armbristers and Tidwells were busy last week celebrating Nora Dragoo's birthday.

The Robert Bruces were in Pampa on Friday.

After a lengthy time once more the light at the access road is on again. Unfortunately we had a fire on the other side of the over-pass but due to the direction of the wind it didn't become hard to control.

Some changes in time: Community Improvement Association will be the first Saturday in the month at 6:00 p.m.

Cemetery Association will meet the 1st of month (quarterly) at 6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church meets at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Sunday School then talk with Jim at 11:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

Cancer Center To Hold Breast Screening

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and High Plains Baptist Health Systems will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening Clinic at Lovett Memorial Library, 302 N. Main, McLean, Texas on December 1, 1995.

Each participant at our screening will receive a breast exam and one-on-one instruction in breast self-examination by a registered nurse specially trained in breast cancer detection, and a mammogram by a mammography technician. The program is certified by FDA, American College of Radiology and the State Health Departments of

Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Breast Cancer affects one in 8 women. The key to winning the battle against cancer is early detection by having an annual breast exam, mammogram and performing a breast self-exam each month.

The total cost of the screening is \$70.00. Financial aid is available for breast screening and mammograms to individuals who qualify.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call the Women's Center at Harrington Cancer Center at 1-800-377-4673 or 806-359-4673.



60th Anniversary Celebrated By Browns

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family dinner and afternoon party on Sunday.

Hosting the events were their children and families.

R. L. married Olene Robinson on November 9, 1935 at Chillicothe, Texas. McLean has been their home for 49 years.

Those attending were

Mary Donald and Sandra Kebler of Amarillo; Brad, Brenda, Dereck, Minde and Carrie Parker of Canyon; Wayne and Laura Morris of McLean; Cynthia Helms, Stacia and Trista of Dumas; J.B. Brown, Willie Nicholas, Morris Brown and Dortha Goodwin of McLean; Bette Pringle, Melissa and Elisa Woodman of Lubbock, and Dorthy Lock of Lefors.



(Above) Elementary students sing patriotic songs to honor local veterans. (Below) Garth Thomas, Jim Gilmore and Melvin Pickett enjoy the Veteran's Day program.



Veterans

Stephanie West, Jessica Daniels, J.R. Shawn and Tanya Daniels. Fifth graders were Lorin Williams, Rachel Bennett, Julie Marsh and Veronica Fite.

Briefs

Buddy Thomas from utford was in McLean on Thursday night until Saturday morning visiting Jodie Thomas and Velma Kinard.

The United Methodist Women's turkey day dinner held on November 7, was a big success. They served 200 guests. This is an annual event scheduled for election day every year in McLean.



Stump's Welcome New Daughter, Jacie Dawn Home

Todd and Wendi Stump welcomed a new member to their household, recently. Jacie Dawn was born November 12 at 2:13 p.m. at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. She weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces and was

22 inches long.

Jacie is welcomed home by her brother, Hogan, age 5.

The proud grandparents are Casper and Jean Smith and Lana Stump of McLean.



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Wed. Bible Study & Youth Service 7 pm

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Wed. Bible Class 7:30 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH · 206 E. 1st Street
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Sunday School: 9:45 am Worship 11 am & 7 pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed. 7 pm
779-2175

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Sun. Sr High Youth · Alpha Chi 5 pm
Wednesday: Choir 7:00 pm

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Sunday School 9:45 am · Worship 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed. 7:00 pm

McLean Care Center News

Sunday, members of the Baptist Church were here to hold a worship service for the residents.

Monday morning we held our Reminiscence program. Our topic was on how we celebrated Christmas when we were younger. Residents attending were Florence Drake, M.L. Rowan, Imogene King, Hadda Moore, Laverne Carter, Eula Morrow, Lula Sheegog, Sylvia McClellan, Beryl Halbert, Loma Lou Gibbs and Phyllis Bailey.

Be sure to read the residents answers in the monthly Good-News Letter. In the afternoon Betty Lowe, Cliffie Heasley and Avalee Crockett were here to assist the residents in bingo. Those playing were Dick Wheeler, Sylvia McClellan, Adelle Walker, Phyllis Bailey, M.L. Rowan, Teresa Richardson, Beryl Halbert, Lorna Bailey, Vernee Bowling, Myrtle Allen, Eula Morrow and Hadda Moore. Bananas were furnished by the Lions club.

Tuesday morning our Musical Therapist, Kim Hernandez was here. Residents attending were

Phyllis Bailey, Polly Burnett, Vernee Bowling, Jessie Coleman, Beryl Halbert, Thelma Hopkins, Hadda Moore, Christine Shipley, Dick Wheeler, Myrtle Allen and Florence Drake. In the afternoon Shugart's photographers were here to take all residents pictures.

Wednesday afternoon the residents enjoyed watching a Shirley Temple movie "Young People." They were served popcorn and also ice-cream.

Thursday morning the ladies had manicures and Inez Trostle was here to style their hair. In the afternoon Eula Morrow, Teresa Richardson, Dick Wheeler, M.L. Rowan and Imogene King played dominos.

Winner of the doll at the recent bazaar was Katrina Thomas and the winner of the savings bond was Loyce Murray. There are still many items left from the bazaar and we invite you to come to the activity department and make your selection.

The birthday party will be coming Saturday, November 18th at 2:30 p.m. Residents

celebrating will be Teresa Richardson, Ruby Ayers, Ruby Myers, Eula Morrow, Jessie Coleman and Thelma Hopkins.

Retirement On Your 1996 Calendar?

If you are approaching age 62 and you are thinking of retiring next year, you should contact Social Security now to discuss your plans. In some cases, your choice of retirement month could mean additional benefits for you and your family. Because the

computation varies based on your earnings for the year and the month in which you file, it is a good idea to check with a Social Security representative before making your decision.

Because Social Security rules permit people to work and receive retirement benefits at the same time, it could be to your advantage to have your benefits begin in January even if you do not plan to retire until later in the year. This would allow you to apply earnings in excess of the annual limit

to those months and possibly avoid a reduction in monthly benefits for the rest of the year. For your application to be effective in January 1996, you should file for benefits any time before January 31, 1996.

In 1996, beneficiaries under age 65 can earn up to \$8,280 with no reduction in Social Security benefits;

and beneficiaries aged 65-69 can earn up to \$11,520 with no reduction in Social Security benefits. The amount a person can earn and still receive benefits increases each year with increases in average wages. Of course, if you are 70 or older, your benefits will not be reduced no matter how much you earn.

Former McLean Man Dies

Charles Wendall Bailey

MIAMI - Charles Wendall Bailey, 62, died Wednesday, November 8, 1995.

Services were Saturday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Howe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ballinger, the Rev. Dale

Dunn, pastor of Lamount Drive Baptist Church in Amarillo, and the Rev. Doug Dubose, retired area Baptist missionary, officiating. Burial was in the Miami Cemetery by Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Bailey was born in McLean and moved to Miami in 1963 from Pampa. He married Jeanne Pharis in 1951 at McLean. He was a veteran, serving in the Air Force during the Korean War. He worked for Southwestern Public Service for 41 years and retired in 1993.

He was a member and deacon of First Baptist

Church and had been a song leader there for 25 years. He also was a member of the Miami Lions Club, Miami American Legion post, Miami Chamber of Commerce and Texas Baptist Men's Campbuilders.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Craig Bailey of Madisonville; two daughters, Cathy Clark and Claudia Cowan, both of Southlake; his mother, Lorena Bailey of McLean; two brothers, Vestal Bailey of McLean and Jack Bailey of Pampa; a sister, Jan Haynes of Pampa; and 10 grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be to the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center in Amarillo; the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering through the Southern Baptist Convention; or Texas Baptist Men's Campbuilders.

Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center & High Plains Health Systems

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December 1, 1995

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The Groom/McLean News

McLean Varsity 1995-1996 Basketball Schedule				
Date	Opponent	Location	Teams	Time
11/16-18	Lefors Tourney	There	V	TBA
11/21	Ft. Elliott	Here	V	6:30
11/28	Hedley	Here	V	6:30
11/20				
-12/2	Miami Tourney	There	V	TBA
12/5	Ft. Elliott	There	V	6:30
12/8	Lakeview	There	V	6:30
12/12	Samnorwood	There	V/JVB	5:00
12/15	Silverton	There	V/JV	4:00
1/2	Hedley	There	V	6:30
1/4-6	Silverton Tourney	There	V	TBA
1/9	Allison	There	V	6:30
1/12	Silverton	Here	V/JV	4:00
1/16	Allison	Here	V	6:30
1/19	Higgins	Here	V	6:30
1/23	Lefors	Here	V	6:30
1/26	Open			
1/30	Miami	Here	V/JV	4:00
2/2	Lefors	There	V	6:30
2/6	Open			
2/9	Miami	There	V/JV	4:00

Good Luck In Basketball
Tigers & Lady Tigers

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McLEAN CARE CENTER is now taking applications for Nurse's Aide and kitchen help. Call 779-2469 McLean.

ESTATE SALE: November 18, Saturday. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many household items. 604 Martin, Groom.

WEIGHT WATCHERS is now meeting every Tuesday in Groom. For more information, please call 1-800-359-3131. tn

POSTAL JOBS. Start \$12.08/hr. For exam and application info. call (219) 769-8301 ext TX 712, 8 AM - 8 PM, Sun - Fri.

"Let us be Thankful"

look **FOUND:** A set of keys at the Groom Cemetery. Come to City Hall to claim them.

look **INVESTMENT PROPERTY:** Motivated seller - a brick 4-Plex in Groom, Texas. Very positive cash flow. Owner will carry. 806-355-2254.

FOR SALE BY BID: 3 bedroom, rock home. 2 bath, 2 car garage. 201 Shelton, Groom. Bob Pool, Exec. of estate, P.O. Box 309, Groom, Texas 79039. 1-4

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT!
 You better not pout! "Santa Saw" is coming soon!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Open House And Public Meeting TxDOT Route Study - Lubbock to IH 10 and Amarillo North

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is hosting an open house and public meeting on December 11, 1995 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Sixth Street, Lubbock, Texas. The open house will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. and the public meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The purpose of this open house and public meeting is to present the results of the route feasibility study from Lubbock to IH 10 and from Amarillo north to the state line.

The open house will feature exhibits and maps. The public is invited to speak with members of the study team during the open house. Comment forms will be provided at the open

TRAP SHOOT, Project Escape. Class of 1999 is sponsoring a trap shoot on Saturday, Nov, 18, 1995 at 9 a.m. on the east dam of Lake Greenbelt, in Clarendon, Texas. Win a new gun!

house and a court reporter will be available to take private comments.

The formal public meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with a brief presentation by the study team. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes each. There will be no responses to comments at the public meeting. Citizens with questions for the project team are urged to attend the open house prior to the public meeting.

Written comments may be submitted at the open house and public meeting or mailed to Billy D. Parks, P.E., Amarillo District Engineer, P.O. Box 2708, Amarillo, Texas, 79105 up to 10 days following the public meeting date.

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SPS To Merge With Public Service Co.

AMARILLO - Southwestern Public Service Company (NYSE:SPS) filed applications, November 9, 1995, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and with electric utility regulators in New Mexico, Texas and Kansas seeking approvals of plans to merge with Public Service Co. of Colorado (NYSE:PSR) and to create a new low-cost energy services holding company.

The proposed "merger of equals" was announced August 23, 1995. The companies are working to complete the merger in fall 1996.

"Customers of both companies, as well as the companies themselves, will benefit from the combination of Public Service Co. of Colorado and SPS, which are two low-cost utilities that have complementary service areas," said Bill D. Helton, chairman and chief executive officer of SPS and designated chairman and CEO of the new holding company. "The combination

will result in one of the premier low-cost energy providers of the future."

Helton added, "Forming a larger, broader-based utility is crucial to meet demands for continued low costs and low rates, and will allow these companies to respond more quickly and effectively to the increasingly competitive and deregulated electric utility market. We are confident the merger will result for all our customers in rates that are lower than they otherwise would be."

SPS's rates currently are among the lowest in each state in which it serves - Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas.

The November 9 filings include the previously announced estimate that a merged PSCo and SPS would achieve a combined net cost savings of \$770 million during the decade following the merger. The projected savings would result from lowered operational and maintenance costs, downsized corporate administration, economies of

scale in fuel and non-fuel purchases, deferred future expansions of electric generating capacity and eventual joint dispatching of interconnected operating companies. The combined companies would serve approximately 1.5 million electric customers.

The utilities propose that each would continue its separate corporate existence, as an operating company of the proposed holding company. SPS would continue to be subject to oversight by the various federal, state and municipal regulators presently regulating the company. "There will be little or no noticeable difference to customers of either utility once the merger is completed," Helton said.

General non-utility subsidiaries of the utilities would become subsidiaries of the proposed holding company.

The filings propose regulatory plans that are distinct for each of the proposed operating companies. Neither

company is proposing an increase in rates.

SPS proposes that its shareholders and customers would share the non-fuel operation and maintenance expense savings realized during the first five years of the merger. SPS customers also would realize all resulting fuel-cost savings. The customers additionally would benefit, Helton said, because the merged utilities would be able to avoid or defer new capital investments that otherwise will increase future rates.

SPS requests state regulators make SPS eligible for an experimental performance-based ratemaking program. Under the proposal, the amount the company could earn for its shareholders would be set in part on how

well the company performs for customers in six areas, in comparison to other regional investor-owned utilities.

Proposed comparative criteria include low residential rates, few formal customer complaints to regulators, low capital investment in production plants, low non-fuel operation and maintenance expenses, efficient fuel conversion and exceptional availability of power plants.

"This performance-based concept is indicative of the benefits of the merger," Helton said. "SPS and PSCo are preparing for an extremely competitive environment. The merger will allow us to continue to provide the lowest cost of energy and best quality of service possible."

The merger is subject to approval by shareholders of both companies, and to

approval or regulatory review by state utility commissions in Colorado and Wyoming for PSCo, and in Texas, New Mexico and Kansas for SPS. Although SPS also operates in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Oklahoma requires no regulatory review.

Federal agencies, in addition to FERC, that must review the merger are the Securities and Exchange Commission, which would regulate the proposed holding company, the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is overseeing PSCo's dismantling of a Colorado nuclear plant that is being converted to a natural gas-fueled plant.

The companies' filing with FERC includes testimony prepared by consultants, Charles River Associates, demonstrating the proposed merger "will not adversely effect competition in any relevant transmission or generation market," and that PSCo and SPS already have filed comparable service, open-access transmission tariffs that FERC has accepted and placed into effect.

Public Service Co. of

Colorado is an electric, natural gas and thermal energy utility that serves a 32,000-square-mile area and a population of approximately 2.8 million people in Colorado and the Cheyenne, Wyoming area.

Southwestern Public Service Company is a regional electric utility that primarily provides service to a population of about one million people in a 52,000-square-mile area comprised of eastern and southeastern New Mexico, the South Plains and Panhandle of Texas, the Oklahoma Panhandle and southwestern Kansas. The company also made wholesale power sales to other electric systems in 17 states during fiscal 1995.

For further information contact: (News Media) Bill Crenshaw, SPS (806)378-2120 or (Analysts) Jim Steinhilper/Louise Ross, SPS, (806)378-2843.



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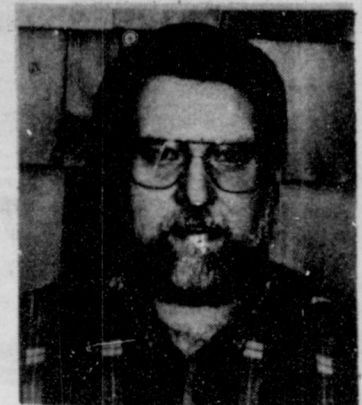
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