

McLean News



Published Weekly
Thursday, February 21, 2002

1-806-779-2141
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Be
Of

Reminder

PIONEER STUDY
Club will meet at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21 at the Lovett Memorial Library with Lynn Reeves as hostess. Anne Davidson, curator for the White Deer Land Museum located in Pampa will be quest speaker.

MHS YEARBOOK
is now on sale. Orders will be taken by MHS Yearbook Staff until Feb. 28, 2002 for \$25.00.

FAMILY Reading Night is Monday evenings at 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Library.

PROJECT
Graduation will be manning the snack bar for the Little Dribblers Tourney, Feb. 21-23. Proceeds will benefit Project Graduation.

MOTHER'S Circle will meet on Wed., Feb. 27 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church. This will be the first meeting since the holidays so make plans to attend. There will be a video of Dramas concerning women's lives and trials. Lunch will be served and baby sitting is provided. For more information call Shawn Bybee at 779-3255.

MCLEAN FFA students will be traveling to the Houston Stock Show to compete. Good luck!

FEB. 25 is the first day for early voting in the primary.

FEB. 28 is the last day to register your brands.



Fern Boyd



Clarence Franke

King & Queen Named

We had a busy week at the Care Center this week besides the usual activities; we had several special visitors. Lois Myers came Tuesday morning to

talk to the residents at the reminiscence circle. Wednesday afternoon the Methodist came with ice cream and served the residents. Thursday morning Jane Henderson, music teacher from Lefors came with a group and they sang sweet heart songs while Jane played the piano. She also brought Valentine favors for the residents made by the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and Valentine cookies made by the home making department. We

appreciate Jane so much for taking the time and getting her students involved with our elderly. It brings so much joy to them.

Saturday the 16th was the Valentine King and Queen coronation. Volunteers Margie Fish, Stella Lee, Lois Myers, Linda Syfrett, Tammy Syfrett, and Paige served cake, ice cream, and punch to all. The residents voted earlier on their choice of candidates. They chose Fern Boyd as queen. Fern was escorted by Johnnie Hutchison. Clarence Franke was chosen king and was escorted by Tammy Syfrett. This ceremony is always so special and this time was no exception.

School Board Calls For Election

The McLean Independent School District Board of education met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2002. Board members present were: John Holland, Toni Bohlar, Neal Odom, Mike Darsey, and Billie Ward. Others present were Interim Superintendent, Bob Downs, Blaze Herring, Dick Crockett, Leslie Darsey, Secretary, Margaret Milam, Steve & Kelly Bowlin, and Bill Anderson.

Absent from the meeting was Joe Riley. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by John Holland. Toni Bohlar gave the opening prayer.

A motion was passed to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2002.

Steve Bowlin addressed the Board with a request for funding of Jr. FFA members who traveled to Stock Shows. He feels by allowing only the High School FFA to receive funds that it is a discrimination of the student's age. In reviewing the current FFA policy, it does not refer to Jr. FFA or High School FFA, but strictly states a member of the McLean FFA will receive per diem money for stock shows. Mr. Bowlin stated that all the students of MISD should be treated equally and fairly, whether it is Athletics, UIL, Vocational, or any other extracurricular activity, regardless of age. Mr. Bowlin thanked the Board for their time and consideration. The Board commended Mr.

Bowlin for his presentation. Neal Odom recollected during the meeting of August 30, 2001, that the funding was not available at that time to pay for Jr. FFA stock shows. The Board will consider Mr. Bowlin's request and look at the policy. This item was tabled until next month's regular meeting.

The Board voted to accept a bid by Billy & Shawn Bybee for Lot 3C-Blk 1, in the amount of \$425.00. Mr. Downs stated that the property had unpaid taxes, and needed to be back on the school's tax roll. A motion to accept this bid was carried.

Billie Ward joined the meeting in progress at 7:30 p.m. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Return to open session came at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Downs recommended to renew Principals, Dick Crockett and Blaze Herring for their two year contracts continuing through July 2004. A motion was carried to renew the Principal contracts.

The Board members commended the Principals on a job well done, and thanked them for all the hard work and dedication, even through some pretty rough times. They were responsible for keeping morale up, and for the education process to continue to run smoothly. The principals are also responsible for making the student feel good about themselves.

Board member

training hours are required and listed below, through January 2002: Toni Bohlar-13 hrs; John Holland-14 hrs; Joe Riley-13 hrs; Mike Darsey-26 hrs; Neal Odom-30 hrs; Billie Ward-21.5 hrs; and Bob Downs, Supt.-3 hrs.

A motion was carried to order the School Board Election for May 4, 2002. Two seats will be open for three year terms. Billie Ward and Don Dorsey will be ending their terms.

A motion was carried to appoint Molly McDowell as the Election Judge for the School Trustees. Ms. McDowell will appoint two clerks to assist her on election day.

A motion was carried to approve the revised EPSSA Policies, Procedures, and Operating Guidelines.

A motion was carried to approve School Board Policy Update 67, mandated by the last legislative session.

Mr. Downs gave the Superintendent's Report. He announced that Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Billingsley would be retiring this year. Applications will be reviewed to replace the First Grade teacher.

Mr. Downs discussed the state of health insurance for school employees that will be effective September 1, 2002.

The Alanreed Community has requested a letter from the IRS stating that they are a tax-free organization. This legality had to be

See School, pg 10

**McLean Birthdays
Anniversaries**

February 21 - Jack Syfrett, Becky Simmons, Benny Watson, Bob and Claire McDowell (A).

February 22 - Donnie Smith, Jordon Herring.

February 23 -

February 24 - Sally Worsham Bohlar, George Watson, Brick Fry, Maggie Ruth Johnston, Julie Reynolds.

February 25 - Dekki Crockett, Jeffrey Lee, Reo Averett.

February 26 - Stella Lee, Nathaniel Roberts, Talitha Newton.

February 27 - Lillie Mae Williams, Ruben Flores.

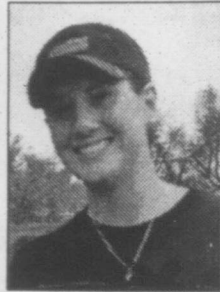


HOLDER HONORED

Fahoma Ladd Holder of Amarillo and former resident of McLean and graduate of McLean High School, was honored Sunday, February 17th at Heald United Methodist Church. Fahoma was presented with a corsage and plaque honoring her as being a member since August 1925.

Family present with her were her daughter Ramona and husband Hal from Houston,

sister Gail Ladd Nelson of Dimmitt, and sister-in-law Mary Ladd from Auburn, California.



**STEEL NAMED TO
DEAN'S LIST**

Congratulations to Lacey Steel. She was named on the Dean's List at McMurrey University for the 2001 fall semester.

In order to make the Dean's List a student must maintain a 3.5 or higher average while taking 12 or more semester hours.

Study Club Plans Senior Tea

The Pioneer Study Club met February 7 in Mary Powell's home. Babe Brown was hostess and Sherrie Martindale provided the program.

The meeting was called to order by President, Ruth Trew. Roll call was answered with any knowledge of the Ramsdell Community or something about Valentines day.

Jerry Corbin read the minutes of the last meeting.

Ruth Trew asked for help in reorganizing Study Club material in the museum. Wanda Lamb and Ruth Magee offered to help. The club agreed to continue paying for the National Geographic subscription for the Library.

Ruth Trew said we should start considering names for the outstanding citizen award of the Panhandle.

The committee for the senior tea was selected as follows: program, Mickey Jackson; gifts, Pat Stubbs, Zelda McClellan, Ruth Trew, Mindy Reeves, Beverly Odom, and Betty Morgan; invitations, Wanda Lamb and Jerry Corbin; refreshments

and paper goods, Lynn Reeves; and register table, Mary Dwyer.

Sherrie Martindale introduced the speaker, Wallace Fields. Mr. Fields gave the history of the Ramsdell Community. It was a very active community at one time.

Valentines refreshments were served to: Ruth Magee, Nama Webb, Mary Glass, Betty Morgan, Mindy Reeves, Wanda Lamb, Ruth Trew, Margaret Grogan, Zelda McClellan, Mickey Jackson, Sherri Martindale, Mary Powell, Beverly Odom, Jerry Corbin, Rita Crawford, Ella Mae Reyna, Cecil Fields, and Wallace Fields.

as a community, not just as a Chamber to achieve our goals to benefit us all. Charity clean up support is on our list for the town, we feel that it has to be a community effort to change the look of McLean as well as helping business's. We want to help beautify McLean. We are looking for people that feel the same way and are willing to work along side us to accomplish this. The biggest thing we are asking for right now is a reply from you as to what the Chamber should be doing for the good of all or just your honest opinion on how you feel about the Chamber to date. We are trying to look into the future where McLean may never be a large town but it would be nice to take a stroll around town and feel good about the place we call home. McLean has stagnated and we wish to help revive it.

Thank you, and please give us your input.

Butch Warner
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 445
McLean, TX 79057

**LETTER TO THE
EDITOR**

As you have probably heard there has been a change in duties in McLean's Chamber of Commerce. This letter is to discuss the efforts we feel are important for the well being of our Business's as well as our community. Katie and I feel we have to work

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"LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING OUR GROOM-MCLEAN CUSTOMERS"

Richardson-Cooper Celebrate 40th Anniversary

On February 17, 1962, brother and sister Jessie twins Joy and Roy and Mary Cooper. On Richardson married Saturday, February 16,

2002. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with friends and family.

Jessie and Mary's mother, Myrtle Halloway did not want a double ceremony, so Church of Christ minister Don Willingham performed the wedding ceremony for Roy and Mary and about 15 minutes later performed the wedding ceremony for Jessie and Joy.

Roy and Mary Richardson had three sons, Bobby Richardson of McLean is married to Missy, and they have three children. Roy and Mary's second son Kenneth died in 1999 in a sky diving accident. He was married to Jackie of Kenner, Louisiana, they had two children. Carey Don of McLean and his wife Shatrel have three children.

Joy and Jessie Cooper have three sons. Robert of McLean and his wife Denise have three children; Casey of McLean has one child; and Clay and Tracy have three children.

Twins, Joy and Roy's parents T.G. and Theresa Richardson had the same experience. They met when T.G. went to visit his sister EllaMae and her husband Albert at the

birth of their daughter. While visiting he met Albert's sister, Theresa who was also visiting her brother to see the new baby. They were later married.

Kindness makes a fellow feel good whether it's being done to him or by him.

—Frank A. Clark

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Chamber Holds Discussion

The McLean Area Chamber of Commerce met at 7:00 p.m. After a discussion about future improvements in the Chamber an election of officers was held. The officers for the year 2002 are: President, Butch Warner; Vice-President, Bill McKee;

Secretary, Mindy Reeves; and Treasurer, Katie Warner.

There was discussion about helping with the Gray County Centennial Celebration Parade on June 15, and fund-raising through a raffle.

The Board decided they need input from

the McLean business community and would like to hear from them in the near future.

Obituaries

O.R. BLANKENSHIP
MCLEAN - O.R. "Blank" Blankenship passed away on Feb. 12, 2001 in Pampa at the age of 96.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2002 at the Hillcrest Cemetery in McLean.

Mr. Blankenship was born to Tom and Molly Blankenship on Sept. 6,

1905 at Paris, Texas. He married Ethel Herndon on Aug. 4, 1923. She preceded him in death on April 20, 1974. He was a rancher and cattle buyer in the McLean area for many years. He was still active in the cattle business.

He is survived by one daughter Eva O. Emmert of McLean, and numerous friends and relatives.

The family suggests memorials to you favorite charity.

SCHOOL

taken care of before the Alanreed Property can be transferred. Action will be delayed until the letter has been received.

A team of TEA auditors from Austin will be conducting a DEC visit at MISD in the Spring or Fall. They will be checking school programs which receive federal funding, such as Title 1, Special Ed, and Comp. Ed. They will also be visiting with the staff.

Mr. Downs announced that TEA recognized McLean ISD as a Title 1 Distinguished School.

Mr. Downs informed the Board that the Comptroller values had been received and that they match the property values at the Gray County Appraisal District.

A motion was passed to approve the

Financial Reports A, B, and C. Mr. Downs was authorized to sign the cafeteria reports for TDHS State School Lunch Program.

A motion was passed to pay the January bills as presented and to sign the corresponding checks.

Under other business, the band instruments will be discussed at the next board meeting. It was mentioned that there were some things in storage at Alanreed that would have to be moved. An update of old outstanding cafeteria bills will be discussed. Neal suggested having the Alanreed Property checked for environmental safety hazards.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Be fair with others, but then keep after them until they're fair with you.

—Alan Alda

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McLean Church Directory

Church of Christ 4th & Clarendon
779-2548
Sunday Bible School 10 am
Worship 10:40 am & 6 pm
Wed. Bible Class 7:30

First Assembly of God 4th & Main

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

First Baptist Church 206 E. 1st

Brian Quisenberry, Pastor 779-2175
Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11 am & 7pm
(Youth) & Wed. Bible Study, Prayer Meeting 7 pm

United Methodist Church 2nd & Gray

Pastor Thacker Haynes 779-2049 & 779-2337
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 10:50 am & 6 pm
Sun. Sr. High Youth Alpha Chi 5 pm
Wed. Choir 7:00 pm

Heald United Methodist Church

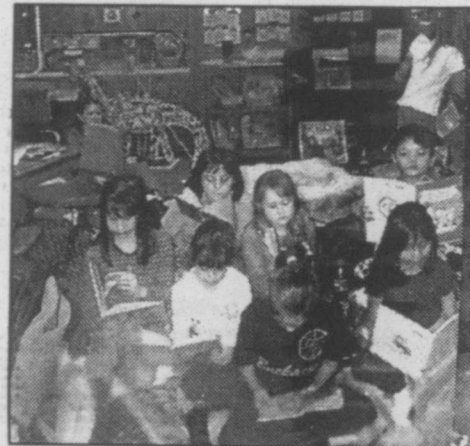
Kellerville Road
Sunday 9:15

Trinity Baptist Church 603 Commerce

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

Cowboy Church at Red River Steakhouse

Cowboy Preacher - Kitchell Collins
779-2456 or 779-2965
Sunday Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.
Children's Church, Sunday - 7:00 p.m.



This week McLean Elementary and Junior High School held their annual Drop Everything and Read Day. Every year a day is set aside for the children to

enjoy reading. They are encouraged to bring a pillow and blanket or mat to sit on the floor and get comfortable with a good book. They spend the day reading and listening to stories. They also are encouraged to listen to

books on the computer and cassettes. Everyone had a good time, this year, and it helps the students with their reading grade in the Accelerated Reading Program.



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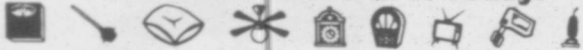
The staff of Top of Texas Gin of Hereford, welcome all cotton growers to a meeting at Top of Texas Gin office 4 miles North of Dawn on Tuesday, February 26. A meal will be served at 12:00 p.m. and program will begin about 12:45.

If you would like to see a new marketing program or want to find out first hand about the Windstar Pool, we invite you to join us on Tuesday at the gin. The Windstar Pool pays all proceeds at harvest (no waiting all summer for completed payment) and has been in operation since 1988. This locally operated marketing program serves customers from seven counties who gin cotton with Top of Texas Gin

Please join your neighbors and our customers for an informative marketing program. Two CEU's will be available. In case of poor weather please meet at the Dawn Community Building.

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Rates: 25¢ per word with a \$5.00 minimum. "Cards of Thanks" are \$5.00 up to 25 words. Wedding Stories are printed FREE up to 300 words, over 300 words - 25¢ per word. No charge for pictures.

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

Errors - Check your ad for errors on the first publication. The News will not be liable for errors after the first publication. The Groom-McLean News does not vouch for the legitimacy of any ad, job or money making opportunity. We suggest that you thoroughly check out any offer before making a commitment or give out personal information.

WINDSHIELD CHIP and cracks repaired or windshield replaced. Call (806) 256-2276. Also wheel-alignment at Wollard's Garage, 1109 N. Wall, Shamrock. Call Jackie at (806) 256-2276.

NEED SUMMER grass for my cows. Call Lynn Britten at 248-7512.

NEW GYMNASTICS Class, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 19, for ages 6-12 yrs, \$10.00 per month. Includes Basic tumbling, tricks, jumps, and balance exercises. (No extra costume fee will be charged for this class.) For more information, or to enroll, call Robyn at ROBYN'S SCHOOL OF DANCE, 883-2129.

CARSON COUNTY is now accepting applications for a maintenance person. Those interested can pick up an application and job description at the Carson County Judge's Office, 1st Floor Carson County Courthouse, Panhandle, Texas. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 4th.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary from the estate of Margie L. Smith, Deceased, were issued on February 18, 2002, in Cause N. 3353, pending in the County Court of Carson County, Texas, to Don A. Smith.

The residence of the Independent Executor is Groom, Carson County, Texas; the post office address is:

c/o:
**Marshall Sherwood
Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 947
Panhandle, TX 79068**

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 18th of February, 2002.

**Sherwood & Sherwood
P.O. Box 947
Panhandle, TX 79068**

By: **s/Marshall
Sherwood
Attorney At Law
Attorney for the
Estate
State Bar No.:
1825500**

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NOTICE
The Carson County Commissioner's Court voted to extend the bid period for the roof repair until Monday, February 25, 2002. The bids must be received by 10:00 a.m. on this day at which time all bids will be opened and considered.

All Competitive Sealed Proposals shall be in accordance with plans, specifications and contract documents which were prepared by and may be obtained from Jim D. Koontz & Associates, Inc. and will be received in the Office of Judge Lewis Powers, Carson County Courthouse, P.O. Box 369 (500 Main St.) Panhandle, Texas 79068.

EMPLOYMENT: The Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District is accepting applications for a maintenance position. This position will offer a health insurance package, retirement and other benefits. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. If you are interested, please call 669-3831 for an application.

FOR SALE: 103 ac. Armstrong Co., with nice country home, 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, submersible well, on pavement. Offered Exclusively by Whitaker Real Estate 356-6100 or res# Lewis 944-5457 or Lec 226-7890.

NEED FULL TIME evening help in Laundry, call Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5161.

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Political Calendar

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

DEMOCRAT

For Carson County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1
Bill Hinson

For Carson County Treasurer
Jeannie Cunningham

For Carson County Clerk & District Clerk
Celeste Bichsel

REPUBLICAN

For Carson County Judge
Lewis Powers

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

For Gray County Clerk
Susan Windom

For Gray County Inspector Of Hides and Animals
Bill Reeves

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AUCTIONS

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OWNER OPERATOR AVG \$1.13 in Southwest 5 state area. FFE needs 27 trucks to cover this obligation. Sign-on bonus, base plates, generous fuel surcharge and plenty of freight. 1-800-569-9298.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

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The Groom News

50¢

Volume 75 Number 38

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, February 21, 2002

School Board Committed To Keeping School K-12 For At Least Next 2 Years...

Concerned Citizens Meet With Board To Save School

About 100 concerned citizens attended the public forum held at Groom School on Monday night concerning budget shortfalls for the 2002-2003 school year. Groom ISD is expecting a deficit of about \$281,000 next year. Major cuts will be necessary, according to Superintendent Kevin Noack, if Groom ISD is to stay in operation.

"Lower property values and declining student population are the major reasons for the shortfall," stated Noack. "This is not the fault of the school board or any superintendent. It is a

trend that started some years ago."

The Superintendent used several graphs to illustrate just how these factors have decreased the aid coming from the State of Texas. "Groom's enrollment figures have dropped from 213 in 1996 to 154 in 2002, our current enrollment. That is a decrease of about 60 kids in just 6 years."

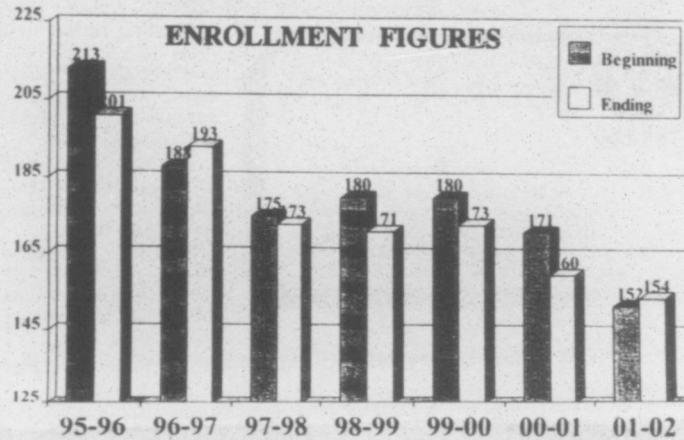
Land values have also declined. Part of what helped Groom ISD last year but will hurt them next year is the increase in land values during the energy crisis last year. "Appraised land values went up over 7 million dollars," explained Noack. "Now that has come back down, it leaves us with a big decrease." Additionally, the State of Texas feels that our District was under-appraised which creates and even bigger burden. Groom's school district is already at the maximum \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, the maximum allowed by law. There is just no room to go up on taxes. The

good news is that Groom ISD property owners pay their taxes. The District enjoys a 97% collection rate.

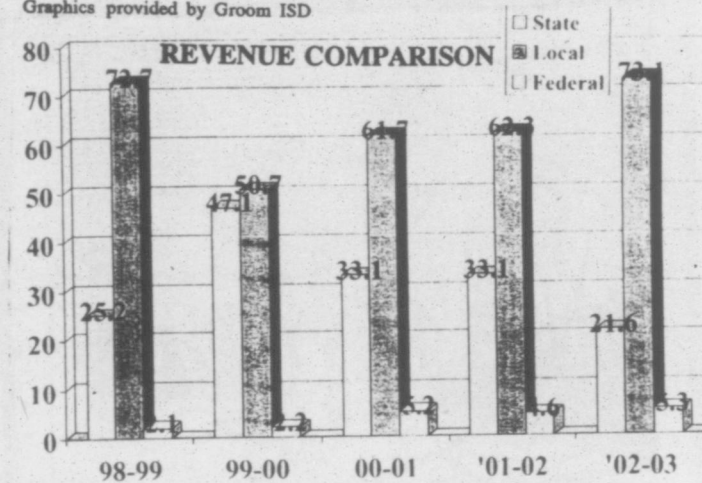
Another graph showed that in the year 2001-02, the State provided \$419,000. Next year the amount will only be \$259,000. Locally generated fund are now standing at 73.1% while just 5 years ago the local taxpayers were required to come up with only a little over 50%. The State support will be roughly 21% and the federal government will contribute 5.3% for very specific programs.

One of the issues that many area schools were hoping to provide a bit of relief is the newly passed state "funded" employee insurance. Noack explained that under the new law, the school will be required to pay \$150.00 toward each employee's insurance, the same amount that the District has been paying. The state will pay \$75.00 toward the insurance and the Teachers

See School, pg 6



Graphics provided by Groom ISD



Community Calendar

FOUND a watch at funeral of Mamie Poole, come to Groom News to claim.

HIGHLAND PARK Relays will be held on March 1st & 2nd.

FEB. 25 is the 1st day for early voting in the Primary Election. March 8th is the last day to vote early.

Tuesday Prices At Attabury Grain Co.

Wheat.....\$2.39
Milo.....\$3.28
Corn.....\$3.50
Soybeans...\$3.54
Sunflowers..\$8.30

No Precipitation Reported

City Of Groom Calls For May Election

The Groom City Council met in regular monthly session on February 11, 2002 with the following members and visitors present: Mayor: Joe Homer, Aldermen: Ellis Stapp, W.H. Ollinger, Don Case, and Chris Welch, City Secretary Mary Sue Lyles. Absent was Alderman Forrest McLaughlin.

The mayor presented a request from the County-Wide Local Emergency Planning Committee that the cities in Carson County are being asked to loan the program the start up money. After the program is in place and the entities that are members have paid their dues, the start up money will be returned to the City. The committee

will be made up of representatives from organizations within Carson County. The mayor will be the city representative and the Fire Department and the Ambulance service are asked to send representatives. The request was approved. Chris Welch moved and Ellis Stapp seconded

the motion to order an election to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2002 for the purpose of electing 3 City Aldermen. Those aldermen whose terms are expiring are: Don Case, Ellis Stapp, and W. H. Ollinger. Rose England and Beverly Stephens were approved for appointment as Election Judges and

Mary Sue Lyles as the Early Voting Judge for the May 4 election. Don Case moved and W. H. Ollinger seconded the motion to exempt travel trailers from ad valorem taxes for the 2002 tax year. Even though the city has exempt travel trailers, the owners will still have to request See City, pg 6

The Groom News

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Local Happenings

GROOM SCHOOL MENU

Feb. 25 - March 1

Lunch

Monday: Chicken fajitas, lettuce, tomatoes, sauteed onions, sauteed green peppers, peaches, milk.

Tuesday: Steak fingers, french fries, pineapple, texas toast, milk.

Wednesday: Corn dogs, tator applesauce, pickle spears, milk.

Thursday: Beef stew, sandwiches, fruit cocktail, combread, crackers, milk.

Friday: Stuffed baked potatoes with ham, broccoli with cheese sauce, hot sliced bread, milk.

SICK OR RECOVERING
 Jack Barnett, Father Dee, Beulah Shockley, Al & Agnes Homer.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
 Alex Anthony was born Saturday, Feb. 16 in Pampa to Ron and Laura Kuehler. He weighed 7lbs., 6 1/2 oz., and was 20 1/4 inches long. Big sister Lauren thinks he's really neat! Grandparents include Al and Mary Rose Myers and Robert and Alice Kuehler.

Groom Birthdays & Anniversaries
 February 21 - Bronte Britten, Bart Britten, Dean Fields, Victoria Moraniec.

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

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

February 24 - Louis Lee Barkley, Robbie Thornton, LaDonna Walker Cortez.

February 25 - Trevor Friemel.

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


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

 One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency.
 —Arnold Glasow

CARD OF THANKS
 One of the greatest blessings God can give us is the gift of someone who cares. Thank you for being that someone. Mother certainly loved our Lord and this gives us peace.
 The Esta Brown Family

Armstrong County Museum & Gem Theatre

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State Sen. Teel Bivens

Local: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, Tx 79105
 Phone 374-8994
 Austin: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Tx 78711
 Phone 512-463-0131

teel.bivens@senate.state.tx.us
 Senator Bivens is the chair of the
 School Finance Committee

.....

Filing Opens For Place On City, School Board Ballots

Filing opened last week for upcoming elections on the Groom I.S.D. School Board and The Groom City Council. The deadline for those who wish to file is March 20, 2002 at the close of business. Those interested in seeking office for the City Council should get an application for a place on the ballot at Groom City Hall. Those interested in the Groom School Board should get an application from the Groom I.S.D. Business Office.

Terms will expire for seats currently held by Kelvin Ollinger and Tim Case on the Groom School Board and Ellis Stapp, Don Case and W.H. Ollinger on the City Council. At press time, no one had applied for any of these places on the ballot.

Residents of the city and district who are new or need to transfer from another precinct have until April 4th to register to vote in the May 4th election. For more information on voting contact the Carson County Clerk's office.

Committee Cleans Up

Farm Road 2300 is looking nice and clean thanks to the "Keep Groom Beautiful Committee" efforts. On Saturday, February 9th, the designated section of the adopted highway was cleaned up. Despite the cold and high winds, the clean up effort was a success. Approximately 25 bags of trash was collected over the 2 mile stretch. Braving the onset of mother nature was Bill Homer, Buddy Weller, Doug Kling, Tiffany Kling, Bud Schaffer, Lanna Brown, and David Brown. The group was

treated to lunch at the Dairy Queen thanks to Bobby Babcock and the State National Bank. This section of highway, by contract, will be cleaned up a minimum of four times per year. The next event sponsored by the "Keep Groom Beautiful Committee" will take place on April 6th. This will be in coordination with the annual "Texas Trash Off" day. More information will be provided very soon regarding this event. Any questions you may have, please contact David or Lanna Brown.

Commissioners Court Passes Interlocal Agreement With The City Of Amarillo

On the 11th day of February, 2002, the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Carson County, Texas met in pursuant to adjournment with the members and officers present as follows: Hon. Lewis Powers, County Judge; Commissioners, Mike Britten, Pr. #1, Kenneth Ware, Pr. #2, and Jerry Strawn, Pr. #3.

Minutes of the January 28, 2002 meeting were read and approved.

A motion was passed to pay all claims.

J.D. Smith Jr., Director of Community Services for the City of Amarillo met with the court to discuss which entity would have the authority to approve proposed subdivisions in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction area, located within a 5 mile radius of Amarillo. A motion was passed to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Amarillo and giving the authority to that city for the regulations. Smith stated that Carson County would be made aware of any proposals before final approval was given.

The court discussed H.J. Resolution 81

which allows the security of people's rights to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience on public property. A motion was passed to support the resolution.

Carson County Tax Assessor-Collector Barbara Cosper reported that 92.08% of the taxes have been collected as of January 3, 2002.

The deadline for taking bids for

The deadline for taking bids for

repairing roofs on county buildings was extended.

A motion was passed to continue accepting the proposals through February 25, 2002.

Judge Powers discussed appointed indigent attorney fees with the court. Powers informed the commissioners that \$1864 remained in that budget of \$13,000. Newly mandated legislation will increase the amount of money that Carson County will be spending on this service. Powers said that no action was required on this matter, but the court would have to amend the budget at some point.

A contract with Unifirst for cleaning mats was addressed.

A motion was passed to hire this company.

The disposal of surplus county property was discussed. Judge Powers sought approval to eliminate the inventory to create room for storage in the courthouse. A motion was passed to sell the outdated and unused items.

Certification of county maintained road mileage was presented by the Texas Department of Transportation. A motion was made to accept the reported

amount of 598.651 miles.

Judge Powers informed the court that the DOE-Pantex payment in lieu of taxes has been made. The amount is \$8,170.50.

Carson County Emergency Management Coordinator Dee Dee Smith presented the 5-year plan for that entity. A motion was passed to accept the report.

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Era Ends With Closing Of Blackwell Supply

Another era in the history of Groom will come to an end this week with the closing of longtime business Blackwell's Supply.

In 1954, Ollie Blackwell and his son Page purchased the John Deere Dealership, which was then located on Main Street. Together, the Blackwells offered local farmers quality service and a quality product that allowed the business to grow and prosper. In 1959, the business moved to 1st and Choctaw to allow for expansion.

The business continued to thrive with hard work and commitment. In 1961, Page "Tater" Blackwell purchased the business from his father. In 1974, Blackwell Supply moved to its current

location off of Interstate 40 to a beautiful new green metal building that soon became a landmark. This was just in time for Blackwell Supply's 20th Anniversary.

Quality and Service continued to be the watch word with the addition of Donnie Conrad to the staff.

Blackwell Supply was a source of pride to the community and "Tater" believed in the community that had been good to him. His annual Christmas celebrations were looked forward to for many, many years. When he lost his wife in an accident, his daughter Marcia took on the duties as hostess and continued to help her Dad run the business.

Sadly, Mr. Blackwell passed away last year after a brief illness. The John Deere Company could not be convinced to leave the dealership open. Donnie and Marcia Conrad have the sad task liquidating all the equipment and supplies this Friday and Saturday. The Sale will begin at 9:30 each day. Lunch will be available for purchase provided by the Groom

High School Junior Class.

Donnie is planning to go to work for Hansford Co. Implement in the near future. He is hoping to be able to deliver parts to customers in this area. He commented that he will be around the shop next week to allow time for people who purchase equipment at the auction to pick them up.



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Jiggs & Janie Britten
Travis Trussell



Groom Tigerettes show spirit and team work as they prepare to go up against number one ranked team Nazareth.

Services Held for Mamie Poole



GROOM - Mamie Jackson Poole passed away on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2002 at the age of 92.

Services were held at the First Baptist Church in Groom on Tuesday, Feb. 19 with Dr. Chester O'Brien and Rev. Lynn Garrett officiating. Burial was in the Groom Cemetery.

Mrs. Poole graduated from Shamrock High School in 1926. She and J.D. Williams married and moved to a farm near Groom in 1929. They had one

daughter, Juanita. She helped her husband farm during the Dust Bowl days. In 1941 she was trained as a surgical nurse. Later she became a beautician owning her own shop in Groom.

She and husband, Jimmy McCasland owned restaurants and motels on Route 66 from Shamrock to Vega. At the age of 50, she graduated from Clarendon College, then received her master's degree from West Texas State University and her library science degree from the University of Texas. She taught school in Groom, Vega, Boys Ranch, Marble Falls, Wildorado, Burnet and Ruidoso, N.M.

She was a member of the Baptist Church

and attended regularly. At the time of her death, she was volunteering at Continental Retirement Center assisting with the chapel service and greeting guests in the dining room.

She volunteered at Pampa Hospital and Baptist St. Anthony's in Amarillo. She taught Sunday school for 50 years, was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma and was a 50 year charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She had many friends because she moved more than 85 times during her life. She wrote her life story calling it "A Change Of Address." She had traveled to all 50 states and many foreign countries. She and her husband, Eulace Poole lived in South Fork, Colo. Her greatest joy was her family.

She was preceded in death by her husbands.

Survivors include a daughter, Juanita Brown and husband Fred; five grandchildren: Larry Brown and wife Karen; Lonny Brown and wife Susan; Lezlie Rainer and husband Brad, all of Groom; Lynita Brown of Dallas and Tracy Brown and wife, Heidi of Lubbock. She was very proud of her 11 great-grandchildren: Skye, Kori, Kade, Mamie,

Maggie, Montgomery, McKinley, Molly, Jackson, Jordon and Whitney.

The family suggests memorials be to First Baptist Church building fund in Groom.

ESTA LUCILLE QUALLS BROWN

Esta Lucille Qualls Brown passed away on February 10, 2002 at the age of 90.

Services were held at the Addington Baptist Church in Addington Oklahoma with Mike Bernhardt and Chris Rogers officiating.

Born near Hasty, AR on January 18, 1912, to Calvin and Eva Qualls, she came to Oklahoma about 1914 with her parents in a covered wagon. They settled in the Tucker Community and farmed.

Esta graduated from Comanche High School and attended Cameron and Ada Women's College. She later taught school at Alamo and Graham. She and Billy A. Brown were united in marriage on September 15, 1933 in Waurika, OK. They farmed east of Comanche until 1952. They moved to Lockney, then to Groom in 1956 and to Amarillo in 1970.

In 1989 they moved to Warren, OK. Esta went to live with her son, Bob Brown, east of Addington in March of 2001.

Esta was baptized and attended church all her life. She was a homemaker and loved gardening and sewing. She enjoyed her family most of all.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, 2 sons: Johnny Mack and Jay B. Brown and one brother, Gene Qualls.

Esta is survived by 2 sons: Eddie L. Brown and his wife Loretta of Warren, OK; Bobby F. Brown of Addington, OK; and Jay's wife Mary Genen Brown of Wichita Falls, TX; 3 daughters: Sue and Chris Rogers of Clayton, OK; Danna and Larry Danner of Harlingen, TX; and Judy and Louis Ruthardt of Groom, TX; 1 brother: Clyde and Betty Qualls of Comanche, OK; 4 sisters: Ora Bowen, Corene Weeaks, Dorothy Morgan, and Jerr & Junior Wood of Bakersfield, CA.

She was blessed with 18 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren, and 8 great, great grandchildren. She also had numerous nieces and nephews.

Reminder
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SCHOOL

Retirement System will pay \$83.33 per employee that the employee can use for insurance or what ever they wish. Most districts were hoping that their responsibility would be less, thus freeing up money to be spent elsewhere. For Groom ISD, this will be a wash out.

Superintendent Noack assured the audience that he had consulted two experts on the school finance formulas used to determine state support. Both have assured him that the numbers are accurate based on the information provided.

Mr. Noack stated that the Board has not had the opportunity to discuss any options as of yet and they wanted input from the community. He said that the Board would later go into executive session to discuss possible personnel cuts. "These decisions will have to be made by the March meeting. That is when teachers contract are offered." Some of the

possible solutions mention by Noack, but not necessarily recommended included cutting programs, teachers or staff, having a K-6 or K-8 school and partnering with a neighboring school by busing older students to attend high school there, or consolidating with another school.

The difference in "Partnering" with another school and "Consolidating" as the superintendent explained, is that if we partner with another school, we would pay them a transfer fee for the number of students who attend their school. They would provide transportation. Groom would retain local control and there would not need to be any kind of election. However, the down side to this could be the amount of the transfer fee. Schools have a maximum amount they can charge that varies with each school district. That amount could be cost prohibited. No negotiations have been explored in this area. With

consolidation, both boards would have to be in favor of calling for a vote by residents of each district. Each district would have to have a majority in favor of the consolidation. Then on the last day of school for the year, the entity with the largest enrollment would be the controlling board. Considering the adjoining school districts, Groom would most likely lose local control in all cases, with the exception of the Grandview Hopkins School District.

Another option might be the merging of two district's tax base. The process would be much the same as a consolidation with the exception that each school would retain their boards and their campuses. However, taxes would go up for the richer district and possibly be lowered for our district.

Other ideas included cutting programs and personnel, consolidating some elementary classes, looking at housing and other stipends. A 4 day school week was

discussed. Superintendent Noack stated that he would have to do some investigation as to whether this would be possible in the state of Texas. The use of Teachers Aids were also discussed. It was revealed that 3 of the 4 aids salaries are being funded either by state or federal programs.

The board convened into executive session at approximately 9:00 pm. When they resumed open session no official action was taken but the consensus was that the Board wants to see the school continue as a kindergarten thru 12th grade school for at least the next two years. They will have to make deep cuts and be operating in a deficit budget to achieve this goal. Groom's reserves stand at \$450,000 at the present. Much of this money will be required to accomplish this task. The next special meeting of the school board has not as yet been scheduled.

CITY

exemption forms from the Appraisal District in order to be exempted.

A motion to continue to provide a homestead exemption for home owners over 65 and to set the allowance at \$9000 was approved.

By council approval the mayor appoint a committee to begin preliminary planning for park improvements so that the city can apply for a 2003 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The minutes of the Jan. 8 meeting were approved as presented.

The bills were

approved for payment and the financial statement was accepted as presented.


Check Out These Web Sites:

Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch: Health Plus, Inc. at www.healthplusinc.com. Genentech at www.genentech.com. Fountain Hills at www.mco-properties.com. LTC Security at www.ltcweb.org. Pearl Vision at www.pearlvision.com. The Bread Machine Industry Association at www.breadmachine.org. Fleischmann's Yeast at www.breadworld.com.

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