

The McLean News



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

Published Weekly
Thursday, August 23, 2001

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City Council Vetoes 10 Year Contract With Cable One, Approves 2 Year Agreement

The City of McLean met in regular session Monday, August 13, 2001, in the City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and opened with an invocation by Joe Billingsley at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Joe Creed Lamb, Doyle Lee, Joe Billingsley, Bob Martin, and LaVon Watson. Jim McDonald was absent.

Others present: Steve Bowlin, Allen Mixon, Toni Bohlar, Ann Pierce, Mindy Reeves, Bill Anderson, Jim Bob Adams, Brian and Pam Quisenberry, Robert McDonald, Archie Cooper, Sonie Bybee, Don Dorsey, Robert Collom, Carol Weiss, Florence Walker, Gene and Stacy Smart, Jessie and Joy Cooper, Bill Kingston, Connie Flores, and Carey Richardson.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Steve Bowlin informed the council that we needed to start hauling clay again, but that it would probably be another 30 days before that was started and we needed to finish covering the last pit.

Steve Bowlin also informed the council that he was still waiting for the county to finish making the last of the street signs so that they

could get the last of them put up.

The council decided to go out for bids for a new or used excavator for purchase or lease purchase.

Sonie Bybee came before the council to voice her concerns on the condition of the streets and sidewalks of downtown McLean. She stated that in her opinion the town looked horrible because the weeds were growing in the streets and sidewalks and that made the town look awful. The Mayor agreed, but stated that the sidewalks were the business owner's responsibilities and that the City workers were not allowed on private property, but that the streets were the City's responsibility. He also explained that because of personnel problems, the City was behind on certain jobs, but that we would take care of it and that hopefully by next year the streets would be looking good again.

Don Dorsey came before the council to say that he greatly appreciated what the council and the EDC did for him in the past concerning his business, The Hop. He explained that the fire at this business had devastated him financially and that he was still in debt. He

said that he was not going to be able to reopen the store in the foreseeable future. He also said that he realized that he was answerable to the taxpayers for the money that he had received from the EDC and that he would do anything and everything he could to make restitution. Joe Billingsley asked Mr. Dorsey if he thought anything would change in the future. He said that at this point he didn't see that it would change. Joe Lamb and the Council told him that they appreciated his candor and honesty and that they would work with him anyway that they could on this situation. He said that if he can sell the equipment he will make restitution as long as he can or that if he sells the building he will give the proceeds to the City. This item was tabled.

Discussion was held concerning the Cable One franchise agreement. The Mayor explained that a public hearing was held from 5:30-6:00 p.m. concerning this item and that the only thing that was stated was that the local channels did not come in clearly and that Cable One had promised that they were going to put in a new tower and antennae and whether that would help or not would be remain to be seen. The council decided that they wanted only a 2-year agreement and not the proposed 10-year agreement. Cable One had also asked for a 6-month extension on this agreement since the expiration date was August 12, 2001, the council decided that a 3-month extension was all that would be needed. Cable One will be notified of these changes. Discussion was held

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McLean Kids Earn Honors In Beef Challenge

More than 60 of the beef industry's future leaders gathered in Canyon, Texas recently to test their knowledge about cattle feeding and earn the rewards of hard work as they competed in the Junior Fed Beef Challenge.

Sponsored by the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA), the Junior Fed Beef Challenge allows 4-H or FFA students to gain practical experience in commercial cattle feeding. Students from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico feed a pen of three steers, then compete on their industry knowledge and cattle performance. The contest also features a Team Challenge, where students who don't feed cattle can

compete on their cattle feeding knowledge. This year, 38 students completed in the Junior Fed Beef Challenge and eight teams of two to three students competed in the Team Challenge.

Travis Fish of McLean was the overall winner in the Junior Division. In the Junior Division, youngsters compete in the same four areas, vying for a plaque and \$100 cash prize for first and a plaque for second.

Ross Anderson of Menard took top honors in the written exam, followed by Kristen Odom of McLean in second. Pete Messer of Memphis gave the best oral presentation with Matt Mellema of Dalhart capturing second. Lucas

Webb of McLean had the top-scoring record book, followed by Ross Anderson in second.

In the carcass contest, Lucas Webb captured top individual carcass and Ross Anderson captured second. Webb came back to win best pen of three honors with Pete Messer and Tate Hopping of Memphis tying for second. Top live evaluation honors went to Pete Messer with Derek Blain of Texhoma winning second. The top rookie award was captured by Willy Wright of Menard with Pete Messer taking home second.

"The future of the beef industry rests with our

See Cattle, pg 9

Local Educators To Serve On Region 16 Committee

Region 16 Education Service Center has invited McLean educators Dick Crockett, Principle, Shelli Long, reading recovery and 7th grade, and Janet Glass, 1st grade, to be recognized in their school support block for Title I schools. These educators serve on the planning committee for McLean ISD.

To be invited, a school must have been rated exemplary on TAAS scores for three years as McLean has. This puts McLean in the category of Title I Distinguished Schools.

To earn an exemplary rating, a district or campus must have TAAS passing rates of 90 percent or better for each of its student groups, which are African American, white, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students and its total student population. The annual dropout rate must be one percent or less for the total number of students

See Educators, pg 10

REMINDERS

FRESH START
Divorce Recovery Seminar is September 7th and 8th at Paramount Terrace Christian Church, Amarillo. For more information call (806) 353-6615.

PIONEER STUDY
Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Bank of Commerce parking lot to travel together for lunch at the Cattle exchange at 2nd and Main in Canadian. Lunch is at 12:00 noon and Dutch treat. They will have a tour of the River Valley Pioneer Museum and other downtown sites at 1:00 p.m.

AGRICULTURE
Commissioner Susan Combs will host a town hall meeting in Pampa (Gray County) on Thursday, September 6, 2001 from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. to discuss with farmers, ranchers, rural economic development and community leaders and rural citizens issues that are affecting the agricultural industry and rural Texas.

MCLEAN TIGERS
will scrimmage Ft. Elliot at Lefors at 6:00 p.m. on August 24th.

REOPENING of the Panhandle Plains Museum on August 25, 2001, beginning at 11:00 a.m. For more information call 651-2244 or write 2503 Fourth Ave., Canyon, TX 79015 or e-mail at www.panhandleplains.org.

FRESH START
Divorce recovery seminar is September 7th and 8th at the Paramount Terrace Christian Church, Amarillo. For more information call (806) 353-6615.

PTA MEETING is August 28th at 7:00 p.m.

MOM'S CIRCLE is on August 29th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

MCLEAN SCHOOL CALENDAR
August 14-17, Teacher in service day.
August 20, Staff preparation day.
September 3, School Holiday.
October 12, School Holiday.

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Meers Approved For Audit

The McLean Independent School District Board of Education met for a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 17, 2001. Board members present were Mike Darsey, John Holland, Joe Riley, Tom Bohlar, Neal Odora, Billie Ward, and Don Dorsey. Others present were John Griffin, Superintendent, Leslie Darsey, secretary, Pat and Mindy Reeves, Jim Shaw, Ann Pierce, Bill and Ronnie Anderson, Terry Adams, Bill Reeves, Dick and Effie Lou Everett, and Vonda Averett.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President, John Holland. Opening prayer was led by Mike Darsey. Motion was made by Neal

Odora, seconded by Don Dorsey to approve Mr. Fields recommendation to sign a bank note for \$100,000.00, with the Bank of Commerce.

Mr. Fields also advised the Board to consider Mr. Lewis Meers, as the independent auditor to be hired to audit spending by the Superintendent's office, Principal's office, and all budget heads. The contractual letter from Mr. Gordon Maddox was unacceptable, as it did not meet the needs established by the Board, therefore, the Board did not sign the contract with Gordon Maddox.

The Board went into executive session at 6:12

See School, pg 9

CITY

concerning the City's 100th birthday celebration. The council agreed that it should be held during rodeo weekend and they allotted \$2000.00 to be budgeted for that purpose. More discussion will be held at a later date concerning details.

No action was taken concerning health insurance quotes since not all of the quotes had been received as of yet.

Toni Bohlar informed the council that Mary Basham with the McLean Housing Authority had asked that the council appoint LaTonya Dozier to the Housing Authority Board. The council voted to appoint LaTonya Dozier to the Housing Authority Board.

Discussion was held concerning the 2001-2002 Ad-Valorem Tax rate. The council was concerned about the extreme jump in the property value in the City, so the council decided to table this item until the Mayor could call the Appraisal District and inquire as to the reason for the increase in value.

The council discussed proposed Ordinance #277 concerning grass and weeds more than twelve inches high. After much discussion and many comments, both pro and con from the visitors and

Council concerning this issue, motion was made by Joe Lamb, second by LaVon Watson to adopt Ordinance #277. Voting for was Doyle Lee, LaVon Watson and Joe Lamb. Voting against was Joe Billingsley. Ordinance #277 was passed and approved on the first and final reading.

Discussion was then held concerning proposed Ordinance #278 on junk vehicles. Again, many comments were made on both the pro and con side concerning this issue. After much discussion, the Mayor

explained to the residents that the council will give people every opportunity to clean up and get rid of their junk vehicles long before they are ever towed off and that the council would work with everyone when trying to enforce both of these Ordinances. Motion was made by Joe Lamb, second by LaVon Watson to adopt Ordinance #278, voting for was Doyle Lee, Joe Lamb and LaVon Watson. Voting against was Joe Billingsley.

Locking in a gas price was tabled, the Mayor is going to call West Texas Gas for more details.

Steve Bowlin told the council that the Fire Dept. had an old 5-ton truck that the City could borrow to put the snow plow on and that it would work better on that than the garbage truck. The council agreed to this suggestion.

The Mayor informed the council that Archie Cooper had approached the City about buying and hanging a poster of the Nations Motto "In God We Trust" at City Hall. Mayor Martin also explained that he didn't think that the City should do that with taxpayers money, so he purchased a poster and frame with his money. The council voted to hang the poster in City Hall.

Toni Bohlar explained to the council that she had put merit raises on the agenda because she had not had a raise since 1997, other than the annual cost of living raise and she would like the council to consider a

merit raise on her behalf. The council tabled this item until the next meeting so that they could give the matter more thought.

The council voted to pay all bills excluding the Fire Dept.

The motion was passed to pay the Fire Dept. bills.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

McLean Birthdays Anniversaries

August 23 - Garth Thomas, Jacob Collom, K.J. Averett, Garth and Marye Thomas (A).

August 24 - Anita Day, Steve Brass.

August 25 - Mary Richardson.

August 26 - Rickie Jasper.

August 27 - Gregg Mann, Robin Corley.

August 28 - Marjorie Fish, Chris Littlefield, Laverne Brooks, A.M. Dean, Bill Stubbs, Kevin L. Smith, Bobby and Judy Orrick (A).

August 29 - Johnny Day, Don Crockett, Clifford McDonald, Rae Simpson, Dianne Studebaker, Lucas Webb, Kevin Smith, Mark and Kim Cadra (A).

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Sunday Special:
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McLean Church Directory

Church of Christ 4th & Clarendon

779-2548

Sunday Bible School 10 am
Worship 10:40 am & 6 pm
Wed. Bible Class 7:30

First Assembly of God 4th & Main

Pastor Dean Williamson 779-2221

Sunday School - All Ages 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Sunday Night & Youth Services 7 pm
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

First Baptist Church 206 E. 1st

Brian Quisenberry, Pastor 779-2175

Sunday School 9:45; Worship 11 am & 7 pm
(Youth) & Wed. Bible Study, Prayer Meeting 7 pm

United Methodist Church 2nd & Gray

Pastor Thacker Haynes 779-2049 & 779-2337

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 10:50 am & 6 pm
Sun. Sr. High Youth Alpha Chi 5 pm
Wed. Choir 7:00 pm

Heald United Methodist Church

Kellerville Road

Sunday 9:15

Trinity Baptist Church 603 Commerce

James Mantooth 779-3207

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11 am

Sunday Evening Worship 7 pm

Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm

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.

"Back to School Fun in the Park"

Monday, August 27, 2001

Bungy Run, Boxing, and Joust Games at the Tennis Courts at 5:30 p.m.

A "Rally" with a live band at 7:30 p.m. There will be a drawing for "free stuff," so be sure and sign up when you arrive.

Free Hot Dogs and Nachos

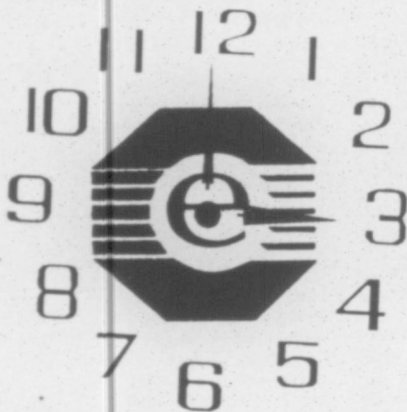
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Tigers Pull Together In Scrimmage Against Hedley

Last Saturday's scrimmage against Hedley provided a first look at the McLean football squad. Coach Eric Smith was optimistic about his players. He noted that this team is young and

inexperienced but that they are learning and coming along real well. He said that in the beginning of the scrimmage, "their nerves got rattled" but that they are "pulling together and

working as a team." The squad has a good work ethic and a good attitude.

Scrimmage rules allow for a series of twenty consecutive plays, 15 consecutive plays, and

then 10 consecutive plays. The coach rotates the entire team from the first squad to the third.

Good luck, Tigers in the coming football season!

Letter To The Editor

I promised I wouldn't write any more letters on this subject but the continued bizarre behavior and statements made by the Superintendent of Schools and the ISD board mandate the community be kept apprised of their actions.

The board meeting of August 13 convened at 8:00 p.m. and adjourned at about 1:00 a.m. the following day. 20 visitors were present and were treated to a display of rudeness and arrogance not earned by the board and to which, based on past performance were not entitled. None of the visitors were permitted to speak or ask questions. Additional safeguards were imposed by the board to prevent citizen-visiters from participating in what should be open session. In the future, in order to be placed on the agenda, it will be necessary to notify the superintendent 96 hours or four days in advance and furnish your request, question or concern in writing. If he chooses, you may get on the agenda. By setting meeting dates close together it is impossible to play by his rules and a gag order is in effect and comes close to violating our First Amendment rights to free speech.

On August 17 another meeting was held and another auditing plan devised. In a prior meeting the original credit card invoices and phone records were approved by the board to be given to their auditor of several years. The auditor took the records and went on a two week vacation. Giving up copies of these documents would have been more appropriate. Now these documents must be recovered and the plan is to give them to a new auditor hired by the board in executive session on August 17. Apparently the board did not agree with the first auditor's criteria for the audit. The August 17 meeting was not announced in time to comply with agenda rules and at least one visitor was denied a place thereon. The school office does not put the date and time of posting

on meeting announcements.

We are not after A-bomb secrets. It would be great if we could know why Pampa feeds grades 6-12 at lunch for \$1.15-\$1.25 and Lefors \$1.10 and McLean must have \$2.00. I hope that the board is not attempting to correct profligate spending and lack of oversight on the backs of children eating lunch at the cafeteria. While some local districts advertise for bids for milk, bread and fuel for vehicles, this ISD does not. The defensive demeanor of the board is not conducive to understanding the current problem and proposed solutions. Depending on the perspective, hindsight is often 20/20. Foresight is always expected.

Congratulations to the teachers and students of the McLean Schools. Both schools were rated exemplary by the Texas Education Agency.

Results from dollars spent are gratifying to a taxpayer.

Bill Reeves

SCHOOL

p.m. they returned to open session at 6:40 p.m. A motion was passed to hire Mr. Meers to do the type of audit specified in the guidelines

of his letter dated August 16, 2001. The letter agreement was signed by John Holland, Board President.

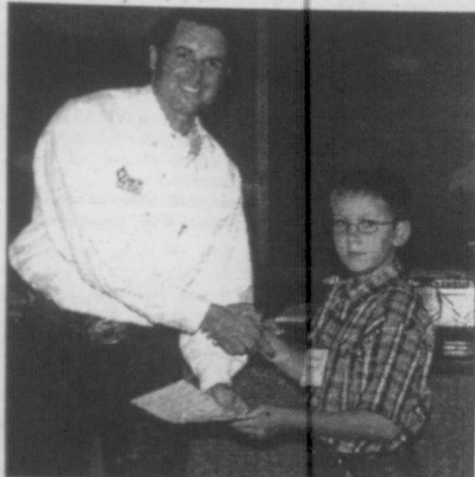
GALLEY HONORED

Rachel Galley received the Multiple Year Award from the National Dean's List which is the most respected publications in the nation recognizing outstanding achievement of today's college students. Rachel was listed on the National Dean's List for the 1999-2000 year as a freshman at Brown Mackie College in Salina, Kansas and for the 2000-2001 year as a sophomore at South Plains College in Levelland. Students are chosen by deans, faculty or educational organizations at their college to honor their students. Rachel will attend Texas Tech University this fall.

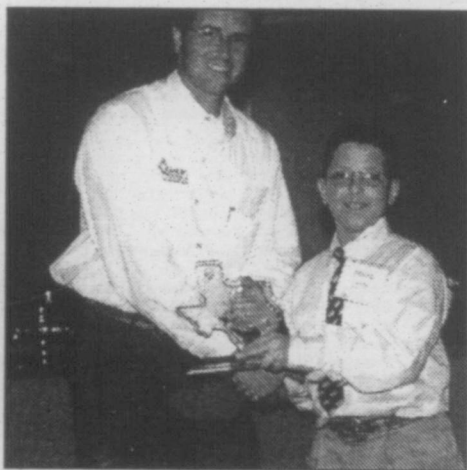
Junior Beef Challenge Winners.....

youth," said Travis Cook, TCFA market analyst and contest coordinator. "Based on what I saw at this year's Junior Fed Beef Challenge, our future is in good hands indeed. These are the

best and the brightest kids going and they showed they have the intelligence and the work ethic to be successful in any endeavor they undertake.



Zachary Odum was presented an honorable mention by Snuffy Boyles of Amarillo, chairman of the Junior Fed Beef Committee.



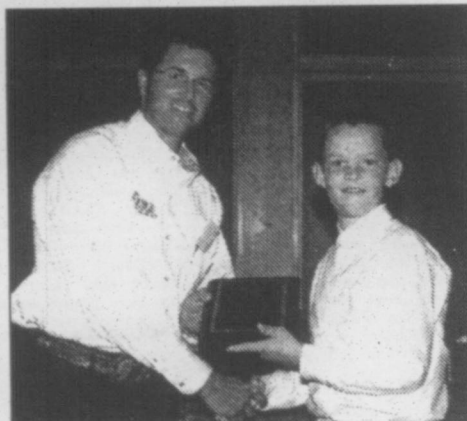
Travis Fish was named overall winner in the junior division of the TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge recently at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.



Nicholas Odum received an honorable mention in the TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge at WTA&M.



Kristen Odum won second place written exam and second place record book in the junior division of the TCFA Fed Beef Challenge.



Lucas Webb took best record book honors in the junior division of the TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge. Lucas also won best individual carcass and best pen of three carcasses.

Cowboy Church

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Public Notice

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

The City of McLean will hold a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2001 at Board Room, City Hall, 220 N. Main, McLean, TX to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2001. The proposed tax rate is 0.316355 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in City of McLean by 8.00 percent.

NOTICE

The City of McLean, Texas will be accepting bids until 6:00 p.m. September 10th, for a new or used Hydraulic Excavator. Sealed bids should be addressed to Mayor Bob Martin, P.O. Box 9, McLean, TX 79057 and should be marked "BID FOR HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR." Please call City Hall at 806-779-2481 for bid specifications. The City of McLean reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive formalities and technicalities.

Bob Martin,
Mayor

ORDINANCE #277

An Ordinance to protect the public health, reduce the risk of fire damage, and to promote the public welfare of the City of McLean, Texas, by making it unlawful, for the owner, lessee, tenant, or person in control of any real property within the corporate limits of the City of McLean to permit or maintain on any such property a growth of weeds and/or grass to exceed a height of twelve inches and establishing the penalties and procedures in connection therewith:

ORDINANCE #278
An Ordinance prohibiting the unsheltered storage of old, unused, stripped, junked, or other automobiles not in good and safe operating condition, and of any other types of vehicles, machinery, etc., within the City of McLean, Texas.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technology (Vocational) Educational Programs

1. The McLean Independent School District offers career and technology education programs in Microcomputer Applications and Agriculture. Admission to these programs is based on grade level, prerequisite courses and class availability.
2. It is the policy of the McLean Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

3. It is the policy of the McLean Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

4. The McLean Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills

will not be a barrier to a admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

5. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator John Griffin at P.O. Box 90, McLean, Texas, 79057.

8-13-01

Board Hires Coach, Approves Law Suite Settlement

The McLean Independent School District Board of Education met for a special meeting at 8:00 p.m. on August 13, 2001. Board members present were Mike Darsey, John Holland, Joe Riley, Toni Bohlar, Neal Odom, Billie Ward, and Don Dorsey. Others present were John Griffin, Superintendent, Dick Crockett, Elem. Principal, Blaze Herring, H.S. Principal, Leslie Darsey, secretary, Margaret Milam, Sally Bohlar, Ted and Sue Simmons, Pat and Mindy Reeves, Jim Shaw, Bob Sherrod, Brian and Pam Quisenberry, Sonie Bybee, Ann Pierce, Bill and Ronnie Anderson, Terri Adams, Bill Reeves, Dick and Effie Lou Everett, Joe Magee, Rose Steel, James Hefley, Joe Creed Lamb, Jackie Hess, Ken Fields, Atty., Eric Smith, and Andy Simpson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by President, John Holland. Opening prayer was led by Brian Quisenberry. The minutes of the regular meeting held on July 10, 2001 and the special meeting minutes of July 6th, 16th, 26th, and August 3, 2001 were approved.

The Board went into executive session at 8:08 to discuss personnel issues. The Board returned to open session at 8:21 p.m.

A motion was passed to accept Coach Chad Walker's resignation.

The Board voted to go into executive session at 8:24 p.m., to interview Girl's Basketball Coach, Andy Simpson.

Return to open session came at 8:50 p.m., and Mr. Griffin recommended that the Board hire Andy Simpson as Teacher/Coach on a one-year probationary contract. A motion to hire Andy Simpson was passed, and he signed the contract.

The Board returned to executive session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the WTRCA insurance settlement with attorney, Ken Fields. Mr. Fields returned a check which had been previously written to offer as a settlement in court.

Return to open session came at 9:55 p.m. Mr. Fields explained the mediation which took place in San Angelo on August 9, 2001.

Eckerd's sued WTRCA and every entity that was a member of the WTRCA pool for \$625,000.00. Each entity was responsible for a portion of the settlement. Mr. Fields recommended that the Board approve the McLean ISD portion of \$21,922.87, plus pro rata share of \$1,325.00, and \$83.33, made payable to Keith Davis, law firm in San Angelo, for a total of \$23,331.20. This was approved by the Board.

Mr. Fields stated that there would be a copy of dismissal of lawsuit after the end of the month, after all entities had paid their portion.

Budget discussion began with Mr. Griffin stating that he believed the rollback tax of \$1.078143 would generate the amount of local revenue needed to operate for the coming school year. Neal Odom agreed that this rate could be used to generate enough cash flow to get the school back in good financial shape. Mr. Griffin figured to collect \$1,930,335.00 in revenues, and expenditures were figured at \$1,529,720.00 for the 2001-2002 school year. Toni Bohlar was concerned about the budget reduction in Health Care Services, and the increase in Athletics, for the newly proposed budget. Mr. Griffin had taken into consideration that the high cost of vision and hearing screening would be expended, due to the fact of the clinic closing. Volunteer services will be checked into for the screening. This budget was adopted as presented.

Mr. Griffin recommends going with a tax rate of \$1.078/per \$100 valuation. This is a \$0.39 decrease from last year's tax rate. A motion was passed to agree to use this rate for the public tax hearing.

A motion was passed to set the public tax hearing on August 27, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. The proposed tax rate will be published, and after the hearing it will be adopted. (Due to the fact that the notice must be published 10 days before the hearing, and the notice did not go to press until August 20, the Public Hearing will be on Thursday, August 30, 2001.)

The Board went into executive session at 10:00 p.m. Return to open session came at 11:17 p.m.

Question were posed to Toni Bohlar as to why the Payroll checks were not included in the monthly printout of the board packet. It was decided by the Board that they would like for Payroll checks to be included in their monthly packets. There were questions about Visa, and Office Max bills and the Board wanted to see the detailed invoices, which was not possible, as they had been sent to Gordon Maddox's office for auditing.

Joe Riley was concerned about the contract with W.D. Wesley Co., who controls the temperature of the building from their Lubbock office. Motion was made by Neal Odom, second by Don Dorsey to approve Financial Reports A & B. Toni Bohlar was opposed, everyone else voted for the approval. A motion was passed to

pay the July bills as presented. Toni Bohlar was opposed, everyone else voted to pay the bills.

Under other business there had been no bids on the Ag stock trailer, so it was to be used as a trade-in worth \$1750.

Mr. Holland, Mr. Griffin, and Terri Adams are supposed to get together to coordinate some volunteer programs that would help out the school.

No other business was discussed at this time.

Motion to adjourn came at 1:02 a.m.

EDUCATORS

and each student group. McLean is the only school, K-12 in Gray Co. to receive an exemplary rating. Grandview Hopkins received an exemplary rating for K-6, Pampa was recognized, and Lefors was acceptable.

On a statewide level, Commissioner of Education, Jim Nelson, announced that the rising scores on the TAAS tests and declining dropout rates caused the State of Texas as a whole to reach the equivalent of the recognized rating level in the states' accountability system.

He said "This is outstanding performance for the state as a whole to achieve a recognized rating, a school or campus must have 80 percent of all its students and each major student group pass each section of the TAAS and must have a dropout rate of three percent or less for all students and each student group. This level of performance represents years of hard work on the part of the students, educators, and parents."

Next year the TAAS tests will be changed to the TAKS test which will cover more material and starting with the third grades, the student will have to pass the test to pass into the next grade.

Council Approves .316355 Tax Rate For City

The City Council of McLean met in a special session Friday, August 17, 2001, in the City Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and opened with an invocation by Joe Billingsley at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: LaVon

Watson, Doyle Lee, Joe Lamb, Joe Billingsley,

Jim McDonald, and Bob Martin.

Others present were Toni Bohlar, Steve Bowlin, Mindy Reeves, and Ann Pierce.

Discussion was held concerning the proposed tax rate. Mayor Bob Martin explained that he had talked to the Gray County Appraisal District concerning the increased property value and that it had been explained to him that the increase was because one local business had an increase in inventory and equipment and another had an increase in size of their business and that the majority of the residences in McLean did not have an increase in their value. The Mayor went on to explain that if the council wanted to go with the rollback tax rate of .316355 that it would not increase the property taxes of most homeowners. For example if a person's home was appraised at

\$30,000 home and at last year's tax rate of .45 that would equal to \$135.00, however that same \$30,000 home at this year's proposed tax rate of .316355 would pay \$94.91, a decrease of \$40.09. Motion was made by Jim McDonald, seconded by Doyle Lee to go with the proposed tax rate of .316355, voting in favor of the motion was LaVon Watson, Doyle Lee, Jim McDonald, and Joe Billingsley. Voting against was Joe Lamb. A special meeting will be held August 29th at 5:00 p.m. to consider adopting the proposed tax rate of .316355.

Discussion was also held concerning locking in a gas price for the winter. The Mayor informed the council that he had spoken with J.J. King with West Texas Gas and Mr. King had told him that he felt like the gas prices would keep going down and Mr. King advised Mr. Martin not to lock in at this time but to wait and see if the gas prices would go down even more. It was agreed by the council to wait until the September meeting and look at the price of gas at that time.

The council voted to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

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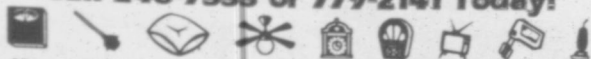
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Rates: 25¢ per word with a \$5.00 minimum. "Cards of Thanks" are \$5.00 up to 25 words. Wedding Stories are printed FREE up to 300 words, over 300 words - 25¢ per word. No charge for pictures.

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.

ROBYN'S SCHOOL OF DANCE announces Fall Registration. Classes in ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics, boys gymnastics, and cheerleading. Students from White Deer, Panhandle, Groom, and Skellytown welcomed. Classes begin September 4th. For more information call Robyn at 883-2129, 610 W. 4th, White Deer.

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Full time, degree required. Send cover letter and resume to P.O. Box 276, Panhandle, Tx 79068.

FOR SALE: 4-Plex Apartment. All four rented, monthly income \$925. SALE PRICE \$39,500 with new roof. Call 620-697-2202, Ron Wilson.

MCLEAN HOUSING Authority is now accepting sealed bids on a sprinkler system for two sites. For more information you may come by the Housing Authority Office at 711 N. Wheeler or call 806-779-2101. Sealed bids are due in the Housing Authority Office, P.O. Box 449, McLean, TX. 79057, no later than 9:30 a.m. on August 22, and will be opened at the Special Board Meeting.

MCLEAN ISD is accepting sealed bids for a 1997- 16' X 5' stock trailer. The trailer may be seen at McLean ISD from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sealed bids are due in the Business Office, P.O. Box 90, McLean, TX 79057, no later than 12:00 noon on August 13th, and will be opened at the Special Board Meeting.

FOR SALE: 36' Mac Don Header for John Deere Combine, 3 yr. old, good for sunflowers, set up now for 36' left windrow on good diesel 6600. \$10,000 for both combine and header or \$9,000 for header only. For more information contact Bobby Jones, Groom, Texas or phone 806-248-7027, please leave message.

LEGAL NOTICE
The Carson County Commissioner's Court is taking bids on the following: **One Office Building to be built in Groom, Carson County, Texas.**

Specifications can be obtained from Carson County Commissioner, Mike Britten, P.O. Box 277, in Groom, Texas 79039.

This procedure and notice is in accordance with Chapter 262 of the Local Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated which requires publication of this notice for at least three consecutive weeks immediately preceding the day of the scheduled bid opening. Bids are to be delivered to Jackie West, County Auditor of Carson County, Texas, prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, September 10, 2001; the date and time at which such bids shall be publicly opened, read and considered by the Commissioner's Court. The Court shall award the contract to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid, or reject all bids and publish a new notice or take such other action of the contract, if at all, shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the lowest evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors in accordance with Section 262.030 of said Code.

NURSES UNLIMITED, Inc. needs attendants to assist with personal care, meal preparation, and light house keeping. Part time basis. Please call 1-888-859-0631, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

HOUSE OR FOUNDATION SETTling?

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

MCLEAN Tiger/Cubs kids cheerleading outfits, sizes 5 to 6. Call 779-2605, leave message and I'll return call-Sally Bohlar.

\$ RNs-LVNs-CNAs-RRTs-CRRTs \$
NURSE REGISTRY, INC.
Staffing Oklahoma, Kansas, & Texas
TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS
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OR 1-800-734-1470
or send resume to
P.O. Box 1555
Elk City, OK 73648

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

FULL TIME cook needed in kitchen, call Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5121.

LVN NEEDED for 2-10 shift, part time or full time. \$12.50 with differential. Palo Duro Nursing Home, Claude, TX, 226-5121.

CNA'S NEEDED for day, evening, and night shift. Certification classes offered. Salary for 6-2 shifts, \$7.00 non-certified and \$7.50 certified. Salary for 2-10 shifts, \$7.75 non-certified and \$8.25 certified. All salaries are with differential and are negotiable with experience. Palo Duro Nursing Home, Claude, TX, 226-5121.

GARAGE SALE: Multi-family Garage Sale. Lots of clothes, baby-adult; 100's of games and toys; tools; furniture; 16' trailer; and much, much more. **Everything must go!!!** Friday 8:00 a.m. to when it's gone, at Old Groom Car Wash on Route 66.

NOTICE
The City of McLean is now accepting bids for Grass Lease property-description as follows: A 46 acre tract of land lying and being situated in Section 65 in Block 23, H&GN RY., Co. Survey Gray County, McLean, TX (near Sewer Plant). Approximate 40 acre tract of land lying and being situated in Section 66, Block 23, H&GN RY., Co. Survey Gray County, McLean, TX (near Landfill). The lessee will have the option of a three year lease and the right to the above grasslands as long as it does not interfere with the normal operation of the landfill or sewer plant.

Both properties will be bid together as one total bid, and all bids will be received until Friday, September 7, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. Send bids addressed to: City of McLean, "Grass Lease", P.O. Box 9, McLean, TX 79057. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive formalities and technicalities.

Bob Martin, Mayor
City of McLean

CUSTOM HAY BALING
Large round bales, small square bales. Call 806-874-9404 or 670-7044.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Groom will accept bids on insurance coverage for all city buildings, automobiles, general liability, and public officials liability. Specifications are available at City Hall, 203 Broadway, P.O. Box 217, Groom, Texas 79039-0217. Sealed bids

will be accepted until close of business on Friday, September 7, 2001. Bid opening will be held at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. For more information, contact Mary Sue Lyles, City Secretary, 248-7929.

LOST: Small gray with orange spots female kitten. Last seen at 2nd and Texas Street. Call 248-9010.

WINDSHIELD CHIP and cracks repaired or windshield replaced. Call (806) 256-2276. Also, wheel-alignment at Wollards Garage, 1109 N. Wall, Shamrock. Call Jackie at (806) 256-2461.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Grandview Hopkins JSD will hold a public meeting at 8:00 PM, September 11, 2001 in Grandview Hookins Board Meeting Room.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.872400	\$0.455300	\$1.327700	\$3,830	\$280
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.671200	\$0.341200	\$1.012400	\$4,172	\$325
Proposed Rate	\$0.932300	\$0.349200	\$1.281500	\$3,184	\$288

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$18,265	\$18,265
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$3,265	\$3,265
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.327700	\$1.281500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$43.35	\$41.84
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		(\$1.51)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.347507. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.347507.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$872,656
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$0



Dog-Day Buys

Coke, Dr. Pepper, & Sprite....
 3 Liters..... 3/\$5
 1/2 Liter 6 pk.... 3/\$5
 12 oz.
 6 pk Cans..... \$1.99

ASSORTED VARIETIES
Doritos
 REG. \$3.29 SIZE
2 \$4
 FOR
 DORITOS SNACK SIZE Multi-Sack 12 PACK 2/29
 DIPS 2/\$4

Velveeta
 REG. OR LIGHT
Kraft Velveeta **3 89**
 32 OZ. PKG.

LIPTON ASSORTED NOODLES OR
Rice & Sauce **99¢**
 3.7-5.2 OZ.
 COMET OR WONDER
Long Grain Rice **1 39**
 42 OZ.
 FARLEY'S SELECT GROUP RUGRATS OR BLUES CLUES
Fruit Snacks **2 19**
 5-10 OZ.
 QUAKER ASSORTED 13-18 OZ.
Cereal **2 BAGS \$3 00**

LANGERS ASSORTED - 64 OZ.
Cran Drinks **2 BTL. \$4 00**
 HORMEL ASSORTED
Kids Kitchen **89¢**
 7.5 OZ.
 KLEENEX COTTONELLE DOUBLE ROLL
Bath Tissue **5 99**
 12 ROLL

SSORTED KLEENEX
Facial Tissue **1 29**
 65-160 COUNT
 DIXIE FRUIT PRINT 48 CT. 9 IN. OR 24 CT. 10 IN.
Paper Plates **2 29**
 EA.
 FRISKIES ASSORTED - 5.5 OZ.
Cat Food **3 1 00**
 3 CANS
 GEBHARDT REG. OR JALAPEÑO - 15 OZ.
Refried Beans **3 2 00**
 3 FOR

ASSORTED BLENDS
Wesson Oil **1 79**
 48 OZ. BTL.

CAPRISUN
 ASSORTED POUCH DRINKS
CapriSun **2 \$4**
 6-10 PACK

Biscuits
 BUTTERMILK OR HOMESTYLE
Shurfine Biscuits **4 \$1**
 10 COUNT

WATER OR OIL PACKED CHUNK LIGHT
StarKist Tuna **2 \$1**
 6 OZ. CANS

ASSORTED
Little Hugs **8 \$1**
 FOR

TRIPLE MINT MILKY WAY SNICKERS OR MUGA TEEERS
Candy Bars **2 \$5**
 6-PACK REG. SIZE BARS

WHOLE OR SLICED
Trappy's Jalapeño **1 29**
 12 OZ. JAR

ULTRA REG. OR W/BLEACH
Era Liquid **3 99**
 100 OZ. BTL.

Bakery Items
 BAKERY FRESH ASSORTED
Crepe Cakes **2 99**
 18 OZ.

BLUE BUNNY 10-12 PACK SANDWICHES
Novelties **2 FOR \$6 00**
 EGGO ASSORTED / 10.7-12.3 OZ.
Waffles **2 FOR \$3 00**
 BANQUET FAMILY SIZE / 28 OZ.
Entrees **2 FOR \$4 00**
 BANQUET HEARTY ONE ASSTD. / 17-19 OZ.
Dinners **\$1 79**
 FISH STICKS OR PUB STYLE FILLETS / 12-16 OZ.
Dinners **\$2 79**

FAMILY PACK SIRLOIN CUT
Pork Chops **1 29**
 LB.
 PREFERRED TRIM SIRLOIN PORK CHOPS
Boneless **1 99**
 LB.

LARGE GREEN
Bell Peppers **4 \$1**
 FOR

DAIRY
Kraft American Deli Deluxe **3 79**
 16 OZ.
 ASSORTED 8-16 OZ. SPRAY, TUB(S) OR SQUEEZE
I Can't Believe It's Not Butter **1 29**
 Hunts Spaghetti Sauce..26 oz. **\$.99**
 Kingsford Charcoal.....10 Lb. **\$3.59**

OWEN'S REG. OR HOT BREAKFAST
Sausage **3 69**
 2 LB. ROLL
 EA. 1 LB. roll **\$1.99**
 PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF ARM
Charcoal Steak **1 79**
 LB.
 (PREVIOUSLY FROZEN) FAMILY PACK SPLIT
Fryer Breasts **99¢**
 LB.
 PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF
Top Sirloin Steak **2 99**
 LB.
 PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF
Arm Roast **1 69**
 LB.

BLACK OR PURPLE
Plums **69¢**
 LB.
 DOLE ASSORTED 10 OZ PKG
Salad Blends **2 FOR \$4 00**
 GREEN, RED OR ROMAINE
Leaf Lettuce **79¢**
 EA.
 YELLOW OR ZUCCHINI
Squash **99¢**
 LB.
 ORANGE, RED OR YELLOW
Bell Peppers **89¢**
 EA.
 YELLOW
Onions **3 1 00**
 3 LBS.
 MEXICAN
Pineapple **\$1 89**
 EA.
 SPICY
Jalapeños **89¢**
 LB.
 FRESH
Tomatoes **89¢**
 LB.
 YELLOW
Corn **3 FOR 89¢**

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PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF
Top Blade Steak **1 99**
 LB.
 FRESH
Ground Chuck **1 79**
 LB.
 OWEN'S REG. OR HOT SAUSAGE BISCUITS
Snackwiches **2 39**
 12 OZ. PKG.
 OWEN'S PIZZA TACO OR
Border Breakfast **2 49**
 14.4 OZ. PKG.
 Oscar Mayer All Varieties
Meat Bologna..... **99¢**
 12 OZ. PKG.
 Oscar Mayer
Beef Wieners.....1LB. PKG **\$2.49**
 OSCAR MAYER ALL VARIETIES
Meat Wieners **\$1 69**
 1 LB. PKG.
 Surfine
Cocktail Smokies.....14 oz. PKG. **\$1.59**

Health & Beauty
 ASSORTED PLUS OR SINUS
Sudafed **3 99**
 24 COUNT
 REG. OR PLUS
Efferdent Tablets **2 49**
 36-40 COUNT
 ASSORTED STYLING PRODUCTS. SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER
White Rain **99¢**
 4-15 OZ.

Groom S & H Grocery

The Groom News

50¢

Volume 75 Number 13

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, August 23, 2001

Groom ISD Earns Exemplary Status Again After TAAS Result Announced

Groom ISD was notified recently that it was one of eight area schools that have earned Exemplary Status for the Texas Education Agency. Ratings are based on TAAS testing, attendance rate and dropout rate.

Grades 3-10 take a battery of tests to assess their skills in specific areas. 100% of Groom students passed Math, 100% passed Writing,

and 97.5% of Groom students passed Reading. Groom ISD was acknowledged for its attendance rate and comparable improvement in math and reading.

All the sophomores passed the exit level test and will be ready for graduation as seniors. Other testing done to gauge comprehension and retention are end of course studies testing.

92% of freshmen have passed the end of course History test, 93% of freshman passed the Algebra test, 100% of freshman passed the Biology tests, and 93% of students passed the sophomore English test.

A celebration for the Exemplary Status will be held around noon in the park on Friday. Hamburgers and

See TAAS, pg 3

City Of Groom To Increase Water Vending Machine Rates To 25¢

The Groom City Council met in regular monthly business session with the following members and visitors present: Joe Homer, Mayor; Aldermen Ellis Stapp, W.H. Ollinger, Don Case, Forrest McLaughlin, Chris Welch; visitors Mike Peters and Chris Sharp with PRPC, Rick Prather, Kathleen Barkley with GEDC, and Mary Sue Lyles.

The motion was passed to charge off a \$4.01 past due bill owed by Kathy Snowden.

The council discussed the possibility of obtaining land east of the city with GEDC. They are concerned about the availability of land for expansion should Groom

need to grow. Several options were discussed. The GEDC has a builder who is coming to Groom to build a spec house on the lot at 603 Martin. This man has expressed interest in obtaining land for a development. The GEDC will be helping him make contacts for this project.

The motion was passed to allow the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Robert Kuehler for land on which to locate a new well.

The next agenda item was water rate changes and vending machine rate changes. After reviewing the proposed budget, the council discussed ways to replace some of the surplus revenues that

have been spent bring the sewer plant into state compliance, matching required funds for the water well grant, and replacing equipment used by the Water Department. Further budget discussion will take place at the public hearing which will be prior to a special council meeting which will be held to vote on setting the budget and the tax rate for 2001-2002. Upon comparing our rates to those of area towns who operate water vending machines, the motion was passed to change the water vending machine rates to \$0.25 for 100 gallons.

The motion was passed to enter into executive session to discuss personnel evaluations and



Groom Tigers workout in preparation for the coming season. Afternoon practices are kept fairly short due to the extreme heat this season.

policy changes at 9:35 p.m.

The council reconvened into open session at 10:36 p.m. A motion was passed to give the following pay increases: Donnie Evans, 2%; Louis Leven, 2%; and Mary Sue Lyles, \$1500.

A motion was also passed to increase the meal allowance for travel as follows: Breakfast \$5.00; Lunch \$7.00; and Dinner \$12.00.

There was no action taken on the vacation policy.

A motion was passed to not pay for educational classes or seminars for employees beyond what is required to stay in compliance.

See City, pg 3

ARE YOU READY FOR FOOTBALL?!



Businesses, Parents, Grandparents And Fans Call Today To Find Out How You Can Be A Sports Page Sponsor! Call 248-7333

Community Calendar

Superintendent, Board To Recommend Tax Increase

The Groom School Board of Trustees met last week for their regular monthly meeting on August 14. All members of the Board were present. Also in attendance were Superintendent Kevin Noack, Business Manager Joyce Hutsell, visitors Curtis Downs and Donna Burton, representing The Groom News.

Minutes of the July 10 meeting were read and approved.

President Cliff Britten asked for comments during the open forum section of the meeting. Superintendent Noack commented that he had been approached by a citizen concerning the posting of the agenda at the post office. Noack stated that he had failed to post the agenda at the post office this time, but

assured the board that the legal requirements had been met for the posting of the agenda because technically all the school is required to do is post it in the window of the door that is near the business office. Posting it in the post office is a courtesy to the community.

Board Member Kelvin Ollinger stated that if posting of the agenda at the post office is the will of the community then he thought the board should continue to do so.

Superintendent Noack reported that the TAAS reports would be announced on Thursday, which at presstime it is known that the school has once again earned an Exemplary rating.

The Lone Star Energy Program was again discussed. Superintendent

Noack presented a letter from engineer Jim Brown concerning the Texas A&M Energy Report. Brown is planning a visit to the school to discuss some of the findings. The Board has not been happy with the small degree of savings seen since the renovations recommended by Brown were completed.

The board entertained a request from Superintendent Noack to appoint Councilor Janie Weatherly Administrator of the Special Education programs at Groom ISD. This will give Ms. Weatherly the authority to attend special education meetings in Mr. Noack stead.

The teacher appraisal calendar was unanimously adopted as presented.

The board approved the contracting of Cornell

and Co. at a fee of \$5,000 to do the annual audit.

Discussion was held concerning the one bid from Groom S&H Grocery and the lack of bids for fuel and bread. No action was taken.

Discussion was held concerning the 2000-2001 and the 2001-2002 budgets. A deficit of nearly \$200,000 is anticipated for the school year 2000-2001. This will bring the school's reserve balance down to around \$400,000. The 2000-2001 school year will end of August 31.

The proposed budget for 2001-2002 has been set for \$1,511,398. If a tax rate of \$1.50 is approved, the deficit will decrease to around \$9,000. However there are many factors that

See School Board, pg 2

GIRL SCOUT Registration will be August 26 at 3:00 p.m. at the Groom Dairy Queen.

DON'T FORGET the Public Hearing to discuss the school budget and tax rate on August 30, at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE Any person interested in substitute teaching at Groom School anytime throughout the school year should attend an informative meeting on Thursday, August 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the school library.

ATHLETIC Booster Club is hosting a Watermelon Feast Tonight, August 23, at 6:30 p.m., at the City Park. The event is free and everyone is encouraged to come.

Tuesday Prices At Attebury Grain Co.

Wheat.....\$2.59
Milo.....\$3.49
Corn.....\$3.67
Soybeans...\$4.17
Sunflowers..\$6.90
No precipitation

The City Of Groom

has lifted the Voluntary Water Rationing Program. Mayor Joe Homer and the City Council wish to thank all who complied for their cooperation during this difficult period

The Groom News

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 McLean Editor - Pam Quisenberry

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 P.O. Box 460, Groom, Tx 79039-0460
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 - \$20.00 Yearly
 Annual Rate elsewhere in U.S. - \$22.00 Yearly



**MEMBER
2001**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THREE TEACHER In Service days have been added to the Groom School calendar. They are: Aug. 27, Oct 29, and Feb. 15. Students will not attend school on these days.

CARD OF THANKS
 The family of Hap Watson would like to express their sincere gratitude for the flowers, cards, food, prayers and other expressions of sympathy during their loss. It is a comfort knowing that everyone thought so much of him.
 The Family of Hap Watson

GROOM SCHOOL Counselor will be in Groom on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Parents should call for an appointment.

CARD OF THANKS
 The Groom Day Committee would like to extend a special thanks to Melvin Wills for all his efforts in cleaning up the Legion Hall and Rodeo Grounds after our celebration. Your help was greatly appreciated.
 The Groom Day Committee

PANHANDLE Plains Historic Museum in Canyon will host Canyon Rhythms Art Show and Sale at the museum on Saturday and Sunday, September 8th and 9th. Artists from throughout Texas and the Southwest will showcase their work. For more information call 806-651-2244.

- Groom Birthdays Anniversaries**
 August 23
 Christopher Homen, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Britten (A), Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bland (A).
 August 24 - Nancy Patterson, Tiffani Kling.
 August 25 - Daryl Homer, Sandy Schaffer, Inez Weinheimer, Kim Kotara, Clay Ritter, Jennifer Weinheimer, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Newsom (A).
 August 26 - Fred Brown, Ruby Head.
 August 27 - James Moraniec, Misty Homen, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bohr (A).
 August 28 - Mrs. George Britten, Sr., Clay Britten, Jo Ann Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Babcock (A).
 August 29 - Matthew Britten, Justin McGee, Mr. and Mrs. John Homer (A).

Local Happenings

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE
 The CITY OF GROOM will hold a meeting at 8:00 p.m. on August 29, 2001 at City Hall to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2001. The proposed tax rate is .471516 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the CITY OF GROOM by 3%.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY OF GROOM

Proposed 2001-2002 Budget
 Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on the proposed City of Groom operating budget. The hearing will be held on August 29, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. in the Groom City Hall at 203 Broadway, Groom, Texas. All Taxpayers and other interested persons are requested to be present and participate in said hearing. A copy of the 2001-2002 proposed budget is on file in the office of the City Secretary for public review.

MUSSER FAMILY REUNION
 By Lisa Musser Roskens
 "Stories of skunks from the Groom School flagpole and cars held together "by committee" flooded the Groom Community Center August 2 as the Musser family held its reunion. The group came from as far west as California and as far north as Illinois.

Ed and Pat Musser of Canyon organized the event, which hosted 25 in attendance and received messages and memoirs from many others. Groom residents Chris and Robin Welch headed meal preparations with the help of local family, and Bill Musser just told everyone the wrong place to go for the gathering.

Lynette Hull traveled all the way from California to learn about her Musser roots. Others in attendance at the event, included these: Bob, Donna, Jonathan and Matthew Musser from Illinois; Bill Musser from Arizona; Tom Musser from Lubbock; Joe Musser of College Station; Charles and Aileen Williams of Happy; Joan Musser of Groom; Larry, Lisa, Michaela, Rebekah and Nathanael Roskens of Groom; and the Welch children, Rileigh and Trenton of Groom.

Oh, and Ed Musser wants to make certain everyone knows, he still does not take credit for flying the skunk up the school flagpole.

Emma Grace Pennington and daughter, Thelma Maline of Austin visited with Patsy and John Fraser recently. While they were here they attended a wedding in Amarillo. Thelma returned to her husband and children in Austin, while Emma Grace remained for another week.

Other visitors while Emma Grace was here included Tricia and Anthony Carson and little Caitlyn Nicole of Dalhart, Walt Fraser and daughter Shasta of Amarillo, Lee Ann Mitchell of Amarillo, Bobby Helm of Wellington, and Bill and Flora Glenn Hammers. Emma Grace returned to her home in Austin on Monday.

GROOM TIGERS will scrimmage Aspermont at Valley on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD could affect the budget, expenses, and revenues. Unknown factors such as legislative mandates, average daily attendance mandates, and unexpected expenditures could also affect the outcome of Groom ISD's financial status.

The board approved a public hearing date for the proposed budget and tax rate on August 30 at 7:00 p.m.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:15 p.m. They returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

The Business Manager's Report and the Energy Report were discussed and approved before adjournment.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

There were six persons booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of August 13 through August 19, 2001. Currently there are 19 persons incarcerated in this jail and additional 19 prisoners being held in other jurisdictions. This Agency will soon be incorporating vehicle speed monitoring to help us make your community safer.

Arrest made this week include:

Tracy Underwood, age 44 of Amarillo, TX- Unauthorized carrying of a weapon and possession of marijuana less than 2 oz.

Arminda Morales, age 27 of Phoenix, AZ- Possession of controlled substance.

Jill Matthews, age 47 of Medina, OH- Possession of marijuana more than 2 oz, but less than 4 oz.

Arthur Cockrell, age 35 of Panhandle, TX- Assault causing bodily injury-Family.

David Lovejoy, age 23 of White Deer, TX- Hindering apprehension.

William Cockrell, age 38 of Panhandle, TX- Driving while intoxicated-3rd.

Bivens Automotive To Close At End Of August

After roughly 60 years, Bivens Automotive will close its doors. Mark Bivens is the second generation to work in the familiar quonset building on old Route 66. Economics and the reduction in the area population have taken its toll on yet another business.

"I have enjoyed every minute," said Bivens, "I grew up here in this shop, but there comes a point when economics will not allow you to be sentimental."

Mark bought the

business from his father in 1988.

The business provided auto parts, tools, keys, state inspections, as well as having mechanics on staff and wrecker services available.

Mark and his wife Tammy are both life long residents of Groom. They have two children, Cody and Magan. They own a home a few miles from town and are remodeling a home in town.

Bivens Automotive will close effective August 31.

Dear Friends and Customers,

Dad and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported our business from the bottom of our hearts. We have had some wonderful years in business. Unfortunately after nearly six decades of service, we are closing our doors. Due to economic demands and lack of trade we are forced to close on August 31st. I have accepted a position in Amarillo. I truly want to say this has been the hardest decision I have made in my life. I hope the best for the community and surrounding areas of Groom. Thanks for all you have done for me and my family. God Bless you and best of luck in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Bivens dba Bivens Automotive
Jack Bivens dba Jack Bivens Automotive

Clean Out Your Garage, Your House, & Your Yard, And Put An Ad In the Groom - McLean News

USDA AUTHORIZES EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING CRP

USDA has authorized the emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres in Carson County according to Eddie Winegeart, County Executive Director for the Carson County Farm Service Agency. This authorization runs through September 30, 2001. The need for the emergency release will be evaluated again in late September for possible extensions.

Only livestock operations within an approved county are eligible for emergency

haying and grazing of established CRP acres. CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the haying or grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer located in an approved county.

Haying privileges are limited to 50% of any single field. Haying must be completed by September 30, with bales removed from the CRP field by October 1, 2001. The CRP hay may not be sold.

Grazing privileges are limited to 75% of any single field or a 25% reduced stocking rate and the same acres may not be both hayed and grazed.

CRP participants who take advantage or this

emergency program will have their 2001 CPR payment reduced by 25% on the acres hayed or grazed or they may pay the 25% up front. The FSA County Committee must approve all acres and producers before any grazing or haying begins. For further information, contact the Carson County FSA Office at 806-537-3533.

TAAS

homemade ice cream will be served.

Parents who can bring homemade ice cream are asked to let the school office know as they can insure that there is enough.

Other area schools who were named Exemplary are McLean, Panhandle, and White Deer.

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CITY

A motion was also passed to ask Raymond Brown to secure the property he owns at 96 and 98 Bosen to bring it into compliance with City Codes.

The minutes of the July 12 meeting were approved as read.

A motion was passed to pay all bills and approve the financial report. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.



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Tigers Do Well In Opening Scrimmage Against Follett Panthers

The Groom Tigers obtained a little practical experience last Saturday when they scrimmaged Follett at Miami.

Coach Larry Reid was very pleased with the outcome.

"Offensively we played very hard and executed well," he said. "Defensively we didn't tackle too well, so we will expect to see some improvement in that area."

Groom gained 250 yards on 21 rushes for two touchdowns and completed 23 passes for 296 yards on five touchdowns.

"We made some mistakes on our offense, like throwing three interceptions, but all in all we got to look at several different players and things went well," Reid continued. "On defense, while our tackling wasn't the best, we were in the right places, which is very important. Follett was not at 100%, but they are talented with some key positions having experience. As a whole, we were very happy with our first scrimmage."

Cody Bivens rushed six times for 113 yards

and a touchdown. He passed once for 25 yards.

Garrett Britten carried the ball eight times for 39 yards and received three times for 49 yards. He completed four of six passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns.

Trey Britten rushed for 32 yards on three carries and a touchdown. He gained 10 yards for the Tigers receiving.

Clay Ritter rushed for two touchdowns on two carries. As a receiver he earned three touchdowns and 102 yards on six passes.

Clay Britten gained 21 yards rushing and received one time for a 60 yard gain and a touchdown. He also completed 11 of 16 passes for 186 yards and three touchdowns.

Doug Fields gained 18 yards on one carry and 20 yards as a receiver.

Wyatt Britten gained 18 yards on two receptions.



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Mr. Willis is likely to associate with other attorneys in the handling of this matter.

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Services Held For Oliver Page Blackwell

Oliver Page Blackwell, Jr. died Saturday, August 18, 2001 in Amarillo.

A service celebrating "Taters" life was held on Monday, August 20th in Groom at the United Methodist Church. The Reverend Tom Moore of Canyon and Weldon Rives of Groom officiated. Burial was in the Groom Cemetery under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Mike Conrad, Russell Conrad, Oliver P. Blackwell, III, Josh King, Apollo Amphay, Corkey Hickey, J. David Brown, and Carey Black. Honorary pallbearers were Martin Hermesmeyer, Amos Britten, Robert Kuehler, Dean Burger, Ken Burger, Bob Pool, Bobby Babcock, and Hayden Brunson. Interment was at the Groom Cemetery, Groom, Texas. The military flag was presented by the Honor Guard of Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mr. Blackwell was born November 29, 1919 to Oliver Page and Ethel Blackwell in Groom, Texas.

Blackwell was a life long resident of Groom, graduating from high school in 1936. Mr. Blackwell served in World War II as a Vice Squadron Sergeant in the 30th Air Squadron division. He was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal.

Mr. Blackwell was owner of the Blackwell Supply and John Deere dealership for the past 47 years. He married Lucille Elizabeth "Lucy" in 1948. He married Irma Homen in 1984 in Groom. He attended the

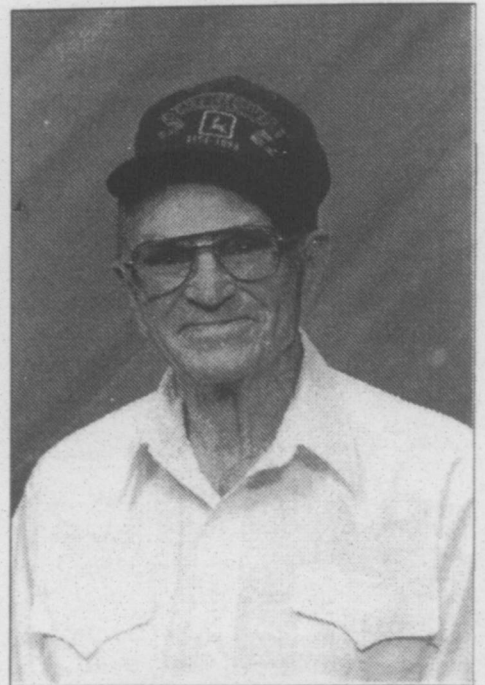
United Methodist Church in Groom. He was a member of the American Legion and was on the Board of Directors of the State National Bank of Groom. He was also a board member of the Groom Cemetery Association.

Mr. Blackwell was also inducted into the Hall of Fame on May 5, 1997. A remembrance brick was placed in the V.A. Health Care System Patio of Honor, to honor Mr. Blackwell by his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lucy in 1981; his wife, Irma on 1999; his parents, Oliver Page Blackwell and Ethel Blackwell; a sister, Ina Faye Blackwell; and a brother, Guy Blackwell.

Survivors include two daughters, Laura Kastelic and husband Joe of Nampa, Idaho, and Marcia Conrad and husband Donnie of Groom; a son, Dan Blackwell and wife Debi of Canon City, Colorado; three sisters, Evelyn Paye of Happy, Texas, Clona Blakeney and husband Joe of Clarksville, Texas, Ruth Black and husband Herschel of Hereford, Texas; 15 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. His extended family included Syreta and Steve Sharp of Panhandle, and Brenda and Boyd Hughes of Woodward, Oklahoma.

The family suggest memorials be to the Groom Cemetery Association, First United Methodist Church of Groom, or charity of choice.



Card Of Thanks

The family of Page ("Taters") Blackwell wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone in the community and surrounding area for the outpouring of love, concern, prayers, phone calls, visits, cards, flowers, and food. Each of you have been tremendously supportive and helpful to us. May God richly bless you.

The Families of
Page Blackwell
Laura and Joe
Kastelic and family
Dan and Debi
Blackwell and Opie
Marcia and Donnie
Conrad and family

The City Of Groom

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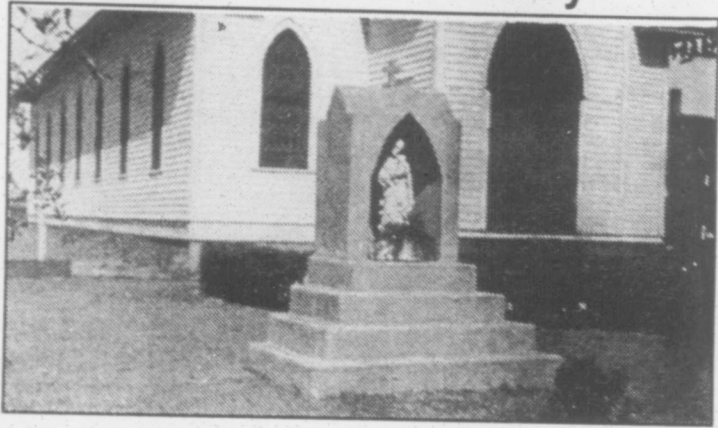
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The Catholic Diocese Of Amarillo To Celebrate 75th Anniversary



The Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Groom was completed in 1965.



Father Richard Neyer is remembered for his sense of humor; he could start a joke and be laughing too hard to finish it. All the citizens of the community appreciated his involvement in Groom Days, even being an actor. After the sudden death of Father Neyer, Father Ted Podson got his feet wet with parish administration, after having had a priestly ministry devoted to teaching school. He was especially accommodating to those parishioners interested in the Charismatic Movement. Father Raymond Crosier served Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish from 1995

to 1998. The school building, which remained relatively untouched since the late 1960's, was remodeled. Today the building houses classrooms for Christian Formation Classes from pre-school through the 12th grade, taught by lay teachers and the School Sisters of St. Francis from Panhandle. Currently, Father Neal Dee is the pastor. His moderately progressive style of leadership is appreciated as the church enters a new millennium. Father Neal has introduced the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Parishioners are more involved in the welcoming of new members. Besides his

duties in the parish, the present pastor has played a role in the diocesan church as many rural pastors are privileged to do today. He is one of the Diocesan Consultors to Bishop John Yanta.

In 1999, his fellow priests elected him a member of the Priests' Pension Benefit Review Committee.

Parish members, both lay and clergy can be justly proud of its long history of devotion and hard work. This continuity has brought Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish to its present size of about one hundred households.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Amarillo will celebrate its 75th Anniversary August 25, at the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium. People from all areas of the diocese, which covers the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, will join guests traveling from across the nation in a Eucharistic celebration. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio will be the main celebrant, and Bishop Charles Grahmann of Dallas will give the Homily. Other guest joining Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo and Bishop Emeritus Leroy T. Matthiesen will include 12 bishops and a long list of priests and nuns.

The Diocese of Amarillo was created in 1926 by Pope Pius XI. The area was formed from portions of the dioceses of Dallas, El Paso, and San Antonio. Originally, the Diocese of Amarillo was comprised of 70 counties in approximately 73,000 square miles. In 1961, the Diocese of San Angelo was created, taking with it the southern 24 counties of the Amarillo diocese. And in 1983, another 20 counties in the southern region became part of the Diocese of Lubbock, which was created by Pope John II.

In Groom, Father Lindeman celebrated the first Mass on April 4, 1907 in the home of Nicholas Bohr. All the first settlers were present. During this first Mass, he took up a collection for the building of a church. The collection exceeded \$500.00. Theodore Conrad secured the donation of one-half block of land from Mrs. E.E. Wilkerson on June 24, 1907. A year later,

on July 26, 1908, Father Lindeman dedicated the first church. It was finished and paid for.

Matthew Britten donated a plot north of town for a parish cemetery in 1911. At the close of the year the parish pledged \$2,250 for the construction of a new church.

On June 14, 1912, Bishop John Patrick Lynch of the Diocese of Dallas visited the parish for the first time, conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on a class of 41, 18 of who were from the surrounding parishes.

The new church, valued at \$4,500, was completed in March 1913 and blessed by Bishop Lynch on March 2, 1914. The old church had been torn down and a rectory was built from the lumber. Father Lindeman came to Groom as its first resident pastor and stayed until 1916.

The rest of the block on which the church stands was purchased in 1915. Pastors in this era included Father Ferdinand Schiessl, Father Cyril Buotich, and Father F.J. Herkert.

During F.X. Pruss' pastorate, the parish built a four-room parochial school in 1929, which was staffed by Sisters of Mercy. A building was purchased for a convent for the sisters across the street, west of the school.

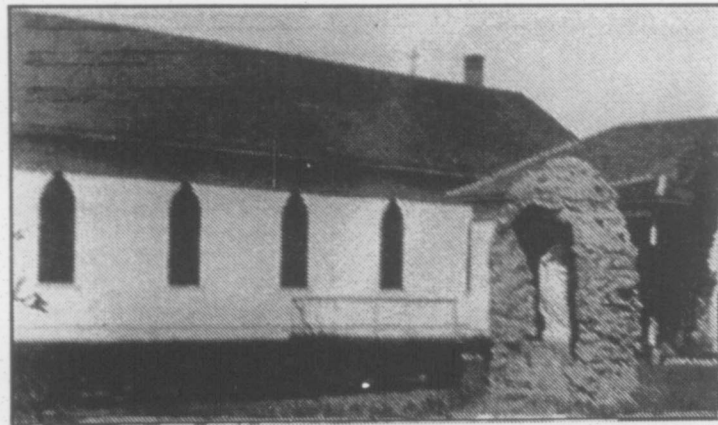
Father Robert Schindler, Father Arnold Boeding, Father J.A. LaHive, and Father Norbert Wagner followed Father Pruss.

In 1952, the old school building was torn down to make room for a new one. Father Andrew Quante erected modern classrooms and a gymnasium-cafeteria. Classes continued with eight grades until May of 1967, then with six

grades until the parochial school's final closing in May 1968.

By the 1960's, the frame church, which had seemed so large fifty years earlier, was too small for the congregation and plans were begun by Father Arnold J. Carlson for a new brick church, completed in 1965. He built a pastor's dream of a church with plenty of seating, a very attractive interior and lots of storage space. Bishop Lawrence J. DeFalco dedicated this church to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Meanwhile, the old building was moved to Memphis, where it serves today as Sacred Heart Church.

With the physical facilities in good shape, the priests who followed Father Carlson emphasized person-to-person relationships. Msgr. Kevin Hand was noted for his ministry with the youth. Later,



The church building that was built in 1913 is still being used today in Memphis.



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