

# The McLean News



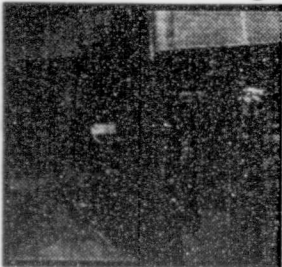
Bank of Commerce Building  
Office No. 5, 201 N. Main St.

Published Weekly  
Thursday, April 21, 2005

1-806-779-2141

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1-806-248-7333

## History Channel To Feature McLean



Ruth and Delbert Trew joke around with photographer Brandon Green about being the first film crew that was on time since the beginning of the Devil's Rope Museum.

"McLean crops up quite a bit," said writer and producer, Matthew Hickey as he prepared to tape Delbert Trew at the Devil's Rope Museum last Sunday morning. Hickey went on to say, "what drew me to it (McLean) was the old gas station."

Hickey along with Director of Photography, Brandon Green were at the museum to shoot footage for the History Channel's *Modern Marvels* program. The topic of the show will be Route 66 and the stories along the "Mother Road". "I hope here don't even

realize what we have," stated local historian Delbert Trew. According to Trew, other shows and channels that have featured McLean have been *Eyes of Texas*, *Texas Country Reporter*. The History Channel featuring an episode about wind, the

BBC, and the Arts and Entertainment channel. After a shoot at the museum, Hickey and Green planned on doing

extra footage of downtown McLean and the old Phillips 66 gas station. After that, they were headed to Tucumcari, N.M.

to shoot the neon lights. The episode of *Modern Marvels* featuring McLean will air during the week of July 4, 2005.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Graders To Move To Jr. High Building '04-'05

The McLean Independent School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 18, 2005. Board members present were Billy Bybee, Ronnie Ferguson, Chet Bohlar, Terri Adams, Bobby Richardson, David

Fuller and Marshall Hanes. Others present were Superintendent, Eric Smith, Jimmy Hannon, Dick Crockett, Blaze Hering, Carey Richardson, and Leslie Darsey, Secretary. All votes are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

Ronnie Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and Bobby Richardson gave the opening prayer. Motion by David Fuller, second by Bobby Richardson to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 24, 2005.

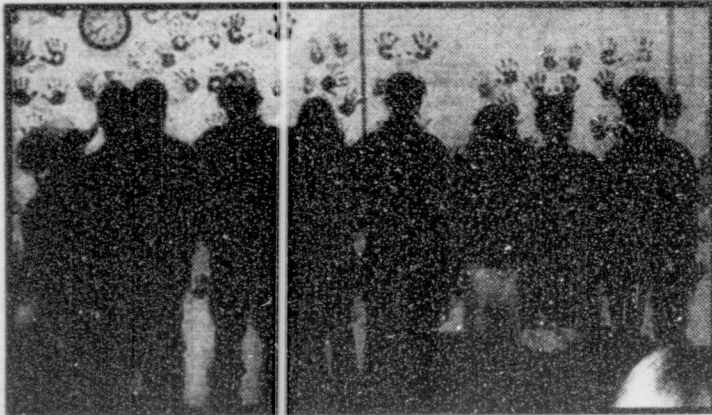
Motion by Bobby Richardson, second by Terri Adams to accept Coach Matt Butler's resignation. Motion carried. Motion by Bobby Richardson, second by Billy Bybee to accept Janet Glass' retirement letter. Motion carried.

Item VI involved the decision as to where the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class will be next year. Mr. Crockett felt that they should be brought back to the Elementary building and keep the Jr. High together. Mr. Herring speaking from a parent's point of view felt that they also needed to be kept in the Elementary

building. Mr. Smith stated that it would free up some of the High school teachers. The building will be crowded, and an eighth grade teacher will need to be hired. More than likely, the eighth graders will still come over for Science and Computers in the High School. Mr. Hannon agreed with the move. A motion was made by Billy Bybee, second by Bobby Richardson to move the eighth grade back to the Elementary Building for the next school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith had included a rough draft of an Extracurricular Activities Policy for review. The

Board thought it was good and required very few changes. No action was taken at this time. Bobby Richardson of All Sound Solutions submitted a proposal for a portable sound system to be used at the football field and it can also be used at the gym. The bid of \$3,426.00 will include labor, installation, material, wiring, connectors, etc. Mr. Richardson also stated that he would include any repairs necessary to the sound system in the auditorium, as it was in much need of updating. He stated that the speakers were rugged and could  
See BOARD, pg. 10



## Appreciation Dinner Given

Community support is what sustains most or all the projects that the students of McLean enjoy. So, in appreciation of the support to the 4-H and FFA Livestock exhibitors

an appreciation dinner was given on April 14 in the McLean school cafeteria by the McLean Livestock Boosters. Eleven exhibitors served the guests a catered meal of Barbeque and all the

fixings. The guests also met with the exhibitors and learned of the accomplishments and rewards of the young people.

### MCLEAN REMINDERS

**THE GIRLS SCOUTS** are looking for McLean volunteers. For more information call Julie Ferguson, 779-2135.

**SHOT CLINIC** - May 3rd, 1 - 3 p.m. at the high school.

**SECRETARIES DAY** - April 27, 2005.

**EARLY VOTING**, April 20 to May 3.

**WO-MAN CONTEST** Friday night, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

**MHS DINNER** Theater, Monday, May 2 at the Devil's Rope Museum. Advanced tickets only. See ad for details.

**MOTHER' DAY** - May 8, 2005

**COWBOY CHURCH** And the Arena of Life meet every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical Alaneed Church.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE** to e-mail your news, you may do so to [jts@centramedia.net](mailto:jts@centramedia.net)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**April 21** - Earl Riley, Robbie Bradley, Evelyn Shaw, Janet Wall, Leah Turpen, James Wall.

**April 22** - Doyal Billingsley, Billy Corley, Jr.

**April 23** - Bonnie Hauck

**April 24** -Donnic Basham, Jim Krueger.

**April 25** - Zachary Odom.

**April 26** -

**April 27** - Betty Lowe, Ann Williams, Clyde Richard Brown, Maxine Watson.



## Hefley-Dudley to Wed

James and Charlotte Hefley of McLean proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori Ruth to Jordon Marshall Dudley, son of ray and Monica Dudley of Comanche.

The couple will marry July 23 at Texas Tech Merket Alumni Center. Both are graduates of Texas Tech University. The couple plan to reside in Lubbock.

## MCLEAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Church of Christ** 4th & Clarendon  
779-2548

Sunday Bible School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:40 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible Class 7:30

**First Assembly of God** 4th & Main

Morning Worship 10:45 Children's Church 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Family Night 7:00 p.m.  
Children, Youth @ 6:00 & Adult Bible Study @ 7:00  
Sunday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**First Baptist Church** 206 E. 1st

Pastor Kelly Raymond 779-2175  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**United Methodist Church** 2nd & Gray

Pastor Thacker Haynes 779-2049 & 779-2337  
Sunday 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Sr. High Youth Alpha Chi 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Chor 7:00 p.m.

**Heald United Methodist Church**

Kellerville Road  
Sunday 9:15 a.m.

**Trinity Church** 603 Commerce

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

**Cowboy Church & The Arena of Life of McLean**

Ronnie Ferguson, Pastor  
Saturday at 7:00 pm  
Historical Albreed Baptist Church

## Health hints

### Colds Vs. Allergies

(NAPS)—To knock out either a cold or an allergy, knowing the difference between the two is important for planning an attack.

The symptoms of an allergy include runny or stuffed-up nose, sneezing, wheezing and watery and itchy eyes. If the allergen is present year-round, symptoms may be chronic. Cold symptoms can include fever, aches and pains, and a sore and scratchy throat that clear up within several days to a week.

The best course of action for overcoming a cold is to let it run its course. Get adequate rest, drink lots of fluids and eat nutritiously. Over-the-counter medications, like an oral decongestant or Ayr Saline Nasal Gel, may help alleviate symptoms by providing much needed moisture to the affected area.

There are no cures for allergies, save for avoiding the allergens. Prescription and over-the-counter medications can treat allergies, as can allergy shots.

## Local Golf Course Featured

The following article was brought to the McLean News by Flea Simpson. It was taken from the San Antonio Express Edition of April 13, 2005, Courtesy of Texas Golf Bible.

### MCLEAN COUNTRY CLUB

- **Where:** McLean (80 miles east of Amarillo)
- **Details:** 9 holes, Par 35, 2,802 yds
- **Price:** Technically \$0, but you should make a donation to the blue box next to No. 1.

**On the course:** "Muhclane" is a crusty ranch town that surprisingly exudes little charm despite its downtown restoration and nostalgic location on the old U.S. Rt. 66.

McLean's course is pasture golf at its finest and has the last sand greens in Texas. The "clubhouse" is a small shed that houses tools and scorecards. It sits just left of the No. 1 tee, which offers an impressive view of the sloping farmland fairways that roll through the wheat fields below.

Only nature waters the fairways, so the recommended play for most shots is a low, hard-running line drive with whatever club gives you the best chance to execute that shot. The wind can be relentless, gusting up to 25 mph on nice days and up to 60 mph when cold fronts loom large over the plains. It's nice that the holes are short.

As for strategy, swing

easy and get the ball rolling on the firm fairways. For approaches, don't worry about pinpointing accuracy but rather focus on just getting the ball into the 30-foot diameter sandpits. The sand greens are no longer hard packed for roll, making it necessary to use the string at the pin to measure the distance to your ball before placing it on a strip of outdoor carpet that serves as the true putting surface.

No. 9 is the best hole, a long par-5 that rolls downhill into one of the widest fairways in Texas, then chutes back up around a few trees to the course's only grass green, which was installed in recent years and is cut with a regular mower.

## MHS DINNER THEATRE



Devil's Rope Museum

May 2, 2005 -6:30 pm

MHS One-Act & Ft. Elliott One-Act Play

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## It's A New Baby Girl At The Bichsel Home




Andrew and RayLeigh Bichsel are so proud to announce the arrival of their baby sister, Lauren Renee. She was born Feb. 14, 2005, at 9:22 p.m. in Amarillo. She weighed 8lbs, 9oz and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Timmy and Lori Bichsel.

Proud grandparents are Walt and Bonnie Bailey of McLean, TX., and Marjorie and Robert Bichsel of White Deer and Charles Meador of White Deer. Great-grandparents are Jean and Ken Modawell of White Deer and June and Clayton Cunningham of Lubbock and the late James J. Meador of Matador. Great-great-grandparents include the late Dale Burch.

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McLean

# McLean I.S.D. Honor Roll

## 1ST GRADE

### A Average

Lexus Brown  
Bailey Herring  
Samantha Long  
Tanner Smith  
Daniel Wells  
Jordyn Wooldrige

### A/B Average

Andrew Bybee  
Andrew Ingle  
B.J. Ketcherside  
Nathan Raymond  
Nicholas Raymond

## 2ND GRADE

### A Average

Summer Ferguson  
Jared McClellan  
Jasmine Montoya  
Shelby Passmore  
Mason Reynolds  
Camrynn Richardson  
Charlie Webb  
Kendalyn Richardson

### A/B Average

Jordan Cox  
Cody Crockett  
Jose Koeber  
Daniel Hutchison  
Chris Walker

## 3RD GRADE

### A Average

Braxton Cooper  
Jacie Ketcherside  
Jordan McLain  
Oscar Rodriguez  
Ethan Smith

### A/B Average

Shelby Adams  
Cody Azazzi

Hayley Burnett  
Shanteia McDonald  
Ian McMordie  
Bryan Payne  
Kaleb Perkins  
Sierra Sanderson

## 4TH GRADE

### A Average

Miranda McMordie  
A/B Average  
Shiloh Brown  
Zachary Morrow  
Kintie Perkins  
Kendra Richardson  
Rocio Rodriguez  
Justin West

## 5TH GRADE

### A Average

Tori Bybee  
Jordan Herring  
Becca Reyna  
Ashley Russell  
A/B Average  
Jamie Alvarez  
Sabar Bohlar  
Jaci McLain  
Jasmine Nelson  
Rudy Rodriguez  
Rena Smith  
Patricia Valles  
Mariah Wooldrige

## 6TH GRADE

### A Average

Tyler Lamb  
Nicole McClendon  
A/B Average  
Jacob Azzazi  
Ashley Byron  
Tanner Cadra  
Clay Crockett

Lynda Fortune  
Casey Graham  
Bradley Howard  
Robert Morrow  
Kelsey Ramirez  
Zachary Seymour  
Sami Staton  
Erin Vassey

## 7TH GRADE

### A/B Average

Tucker Adams  
Nancy Castillo  
Caleb Crawford  
William Eldridge  
Lisa Ellis  
Lyndsey Ellis  
Haylea Harper  
Sheri Haynes  
Sierra McDonald  
David Passmore  
Jessica Skipper

## 8TH GRADE

### 90 & Above

Trenton Darsey  
Jamie Sanderson  
DaShae Tolleson  
80 & Above  
Nikki Hutchinson  
Emory Crawford  
Patrick Seager  
Tammy Syfrett

## 9TH GRADE

### 90 & Above

Mark Smith  
Lucas Webb

## 10TH GRADE

### 90 & Above

Brooke Seymour  
John Haynes

## 11TH GRADE

### 80 & Above

Manden Conklin  
Kevin Smith  
Carrie Thompson  
12TH GRADE  
90 & Above  
James Alexander  
Nick Jones  
Ashley McClendon  
80 & Above  
Zane Richardson  
Lucas Seymour  
Tyler Hanes  
Allison Hill  
Philip Jones  
Antonio Montoya  
LaShonda Parks  
Amber Raines

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Shawn Bybee, Shelly Henderson, Juliana Lewis

## Horse Judging Team Qualifies For Area

The FFA Horse Judging team traveled to Tarleton State University recently to compete in district contest. Jamie Sanderson, Kutter Anderson, Matt Applewhite and Evan McMordie placed 36th, advancing the team to

compete in area at Texas Tech University. A total of 224 teams competed in all.

The Wildlife Judging team competed in district contest at West Texas A&M University on April 11. Lucas Seymour, Logan

Sparling, Seth Childers and Mark Smith placed fourth in district.

John Haynes, Mark Smith, Kevin Smith and Lucas Webb competed as the Land Judging team in district contest in Wellington on April 14. The team placed third.

Thanks to the McLean Students who always bring a smile to our faces and a tear to our eye. What a year! Congratulations on ALL your accomplishments and those yet to come.

Thanks To The Business For Supporting Our Youth.

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**Red River Steak House**  
779-8940

**Trinity Church**  
779-3207

**Country Corner**  
779-2209

## Board Minutes Continued

withstand the moving about. Terri Adams made a motion, second by David Fuller to accept the sound system proposal; with 4 voting "FOR", Chet Bohlar was opposed, and Bobby Richardson abstained.

Motion was made by Bobby Richardson, second by Marshall Hanes to approve the necessary Budget amendments to move money from the General Operating fund to the Technology fund to cover the cost incurred to upgrade computers, purchase license, and install a firewall due to a hacker from Belgium. Motion carried.

Motion by David Fuller, second by Chet Bohlar to approve to extend the Depository Contract with Bank of Commerce, from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2007. Motion carried.

Motion by Terri Adams, second by David Fuller to raise the current travel reimbursement rate from .28 cents to .32 cents. Motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss personnel. Return to open session came at 8:25 p.m.

Upon Mr. Smith's recommendation the following action took place. David Fuller made a motion to rehire Jason Farmer on a one-year contract as Head Basketball Coach/Teacher, seconded by Bobby Richardson. Motion carried. Motion by Terri Adams, second by David Fuller to table the contract of Christy Cox. Motion carried. Chet Bohlar then made a motion to hire Misty Hannon as the 7th grade teacher, second by Bobby Richardson. Motion

carried. Mr. Crockett gave the 3rd grade Reading TAKS results, with 94% passing, and the state average was at 89%. For the 5th grade Reading, McLean BEEN had 79% pass, with the state average being 75%, and 86% passed the Math TAKS. Mr. Herring had some High School TAKS testing back in February, but the results will not be received until mid-May. Both principals are so proud of the good teachers, and how they are very professional by handling the stress related with the preparation of TAKS testing. The teachers have gone above and beyond what is necessary to have the students as much prepared as they can. TAKS tests will continue all this week. It was mentioned that next year if at all possible the teachers desired to have a 20-minute time slot in order to work on UIL or TAKS remediation with students. Motion by Terri Adams, second by Chet Bohlar to approve Financial Reports A,B, & C. Motion carried. Motion by Bobby Richardson, second by Terri Adams to approve to pay the bills as presented and to sign the corresponding checks. Motion carried. Under other business, Mr. Smith reminded the Board about the Team of 8 Training to be held in the Blue Room on Thursday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. He also reminded them of the Staff Appreciation dinner on April 26th. Bobby Richardson spoke up for the Golf team, expressing how grateful they were for the wind suits. Chet Bohlar inquired about the Coach's inventory of all

athletic equipment. Coach Herring inquired about the use of the old gym by people from out of town, and no one had a problem with this, except they would like to see the gym kept closed on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and also to have the weight equipment locked up.

Motion by Terri Adams, second by Bobby Richardson to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

## Montoya To Compete In Regional Tennis Meet

Wednesday, April 6, the Tiger tennis team, Antonio Montoya, John Haynes, Nick Jones, Tyler Hanes, Larry Lush and DJ Menefield, competed in Wheeler. "The gentlemen played well," said Coach Jana Gates, "but it was challenging with the 40 mile an hour cold wind." Despite the wind, Antonio won first in the Boys Single Division.

Monday, April 11 was District Tennis in Amarillo at the Amarillo Tennis Center. The McLean teams consisted of Antonio Montoya and John Haynes in boys singles; Tyler Hanes and Nick Jones, and Larry Lusk and DJ Menefield in boys doubles. Tara Thomas and Stephanie Henson played girls singles. Brooke Seymour and Lindsey Ruiz, and Amanda Fricks and Lacey Wallis played girls doubles.

The wind was blowing really hard making it more difficult to play, according to Coach Gates. However, everyone played hard and represented McLean well.

The semi-finals were held on Tuesday back in Amarillo. Representing McLean were Antonio Montoya, Brooke Seymour and Lindsey Ruiz. Brooke and Lindsey won fourth place and Antonio won second.

Antonio will be competing at the Regional Tournament, April 27 and 28 in Levelland.

Congratulations to all the players who competed well and Good Luck Antonio!



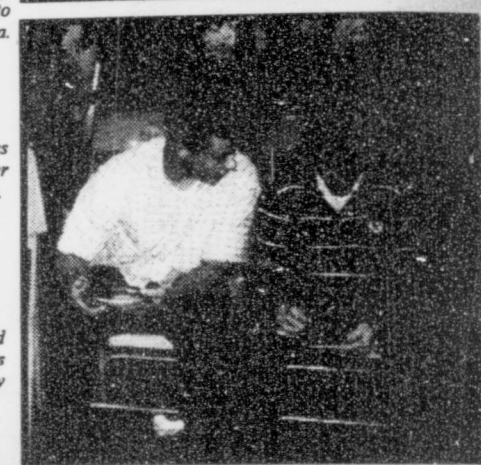
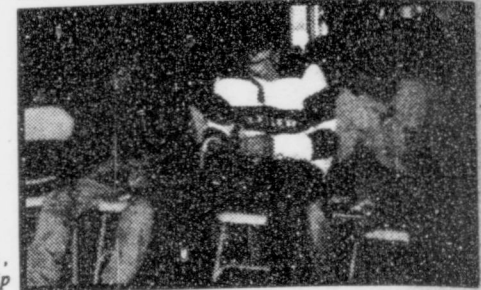
## Study Club Honors Class of 2005

The Pioneer Study Club honored the McLean graduating seniors on April 17, with a Senior Tea.

Each senior and their family was treated to a variety of refreshments. The seniors also received a personalized laundry bag. The bags were made by members of the Pioneer Study Club.

Angie Ware addressed the future graduates with a very inspiring talk on "Never Let Obstacles Stand in Your Way". Mrs. Ware reminded them that for each closed door they would encounter in life; another window of opportunity would arise.

The next meeting for the Pioneer Study Club will be May 5 at Elizabeth's.



Above Right - Lashonda, Amber, Ashley, and Philip wait for the program to begin at the senior tea.

Middle Right - Seniors Lucas, James & Tyler discuss their future plans.

Bottom Right - Nick and Zane enjoy the delicious refreshments provided by the Pioneer Study Club.

## Local Boy Scout Troop Visits McLean-Alanreed Museum

During the month of March, the McLean-Alanreed Area Museum had 105 visitors. These visitors were from 13 different states and two foreign countries, Canada and France. The state of Washington had the most visitors outside of Texas. Michigan and New York

followed.

The museum was glad to host the local Boy Scouts. Hunter Burnett, Daniel and David Wells, Tanner Smith, Andrew Bybee, Andrew Ingles, B.J. Ketcherside, and leaders Heidi Wells and Judith Ingles all enjoyed experiencing the history of

the museum.

Dorothy McKee tells the McLean News that the museum has several new displays. One of the displays shows how the pump jack works. She invites everyone to come in and experience a piece of history.

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 No charge for engagement or wedding pictures, baby announcements or obituaries with their respective associated pictures.  
 The News reserves the right to maintain editorial integrity.  
 Deadlines & Payment: All news and ads should be in the office by close of business Monday unless by prior approval. News releases are run on a space available basis. Payment is due in advance unless a credit account has been previously established.  
 Errors: Check your ad immediately after the first publication! The News will not be responsible for mistakes after the first publication.  
 The Groom-McLean News does not vouch for the legitimacy of any ad, job or money making opportunity advertised in this paper. We strongly recommend that you check out any offer before making a commitment or giving out any personal information.

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**LOVE'S COUNTRY** Store #229 at I-40 and Conway is hiring for all shifts. 806-537-3393. Equal Opportunity Employer

**GROOM ARENA** Association will meet on Monday, April 18th, at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

**FOR SALE BY owner,** 3-bed, 1 3/4 bath on 3 lots, with 40x50 shop on Commercial property. Clint Smith - 806-248-0226 or 806-341-7709.

**THE MCLEAN** Care Center has immediate openings for CNA's, LVN's, Dietary, and Maintenance Personnel. Please contact Billy Ray Johnston at 779-2469.

**TO CONTACT** City of Groom Employees after hours or on weekends for emergencies contact: Donnie Evans at home: 248-7075 or by pager: 342-8313 or Louis Loven at home: 664-5036 or by pager: 342-8312.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code Chapter 258, the Commissioners Court of Gray County, Texas intends to consider the adoption of an official county road map. The purpose of this action is to clarify the public versus private status of the existing rural road network. After adoption, the official county road map will serve as conclusive evidence of the public's right of access over roads shown on the map and the county's authority to spend public money to maintain the roads

**MOVING/GARAGE SALE:** at 309 Ware, Groom. Saturday Only, 8:00 am till 7:00 pm. Lots of Misc.

**NEED CNA'S** all shifts. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5121.

**NEED FULL-TIME** housekeeper. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home at 226-5121.

**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.

**WANTED: GRASS** or stalk pasture for grazing. Call Lynn Britten at 248-7512.

**INTERESTED IN** Helping the Community? Like to work with the public? Are you looking to further your education? If you answered "YES" to these questions, please contact Pam Skipper at 779-2872 Or Ronia Anderson at 334-0296 for information on an EMT Basic Class.

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**SHURFINE A'SST GRAY MIX OR SEASONINGS 4/\$1**



**MEXICAN DINNERS**  
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**LAYS**  
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**PICKLE SLICES**  
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**Frozen Foods**



**BLUE BUNNY ICE CREAM**  
or Frozen Yogurt Assort. 56-64 oz. rmd. ctn. **2 \$7** FOR

REG. BUNNY VANILLA/COMBO CHAMP CONES OR SWEET FRUIT CONES/LAMBOLICHES **FROZEN TREATS** 6 COUNT **\$4**

ASSORTED **PATIO BURRITOS** 50Z. PK. **3 \$1** FOR

TEXSH 100% **ORANGE JUICE** 12 OZ. CAN **\$1**

SELECT GROUP FROZEN POTATOES **INLAND VALLEY** 14-12 OZ. **3 \$5** FOR

INDY'S **CORN ON THE COB** 4 COUNT **3 \$5** FOR

**Dairy Case**



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SHURFINE **CHILLED ORANGE JUICE** 2 \$5 GALLON **2 \$5** FOR

ASSORTED **SUNNY D CITRUS PUNCH** \$2 GALLON **2**

**SHURFINE A'SST GRAY MIX OR SEASONINGS 4/\$1**



**CORN MUFFIN MIX**  
JIPFY 8.5 oz. **3 \$1** FOR

TEXSH 100% **ORANGE JUICE** 46 OZ. CAN **2 \$3** FOR

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Pilgrim's Pride Jimbo Pack **89¢** LB.

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Dole 10 oz. Angel Hair or 16 oz. Reg. **99¢**

**COOKIES**  
12 PACK 2/\$7.00  
8 PACK 12 OZ BOTTLES 3/\$8  
DASANI \$5.99

BONELESS SHURFINE 12 OZ. MEAT FRANKS..... 69¢  
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SALAD SIZE AVOCADOS..... 3 \$1  
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TANGY JUICY LEMONS OR LIMES..... 5 \$1

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BREAKFAST SIZE GRAPEFRUIT..... 3 \$1  
FRESH PICKED SWEET POTATOES..... LB. 69¢  
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SHURFINE 11.5 LB. SLICED BACON **\$3.99**  
PREFERRED TRI-TIP BONELESS BEEF RIBS..... LB. \$5.99  
SHURFINE MEAT BOLOGNA..... 99¢  
PREFERRED TRI-TIP BONELESS BEEF CHUCK STEAK..... LB. \$2.39  
PREFERRED TRI-TIP BONELESS BEEF CHUCK EYE STEAK..... LB. \$4.39  
FRESH GROUND CHUCK..... LB. \$2.39

PEYTON'S 8 OZ. CHORIZO..... \$1.29  
OGCAR MAYO 8 OZ CROPPED BEAN..... \$1.99  
WISCONSIN MARKET CUT CHEDDAR CHEESE..... LB. \$2.99  
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1 LB. FAMILY PACK 17 CT. STATE FAIR CORN DOGS..... \$4.99

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# The Groom News

50¢

Volume 78 Number 39

The Groom-McLean News 79039

Thursday, April 21, 2005

## Enrollment Is Looking Upwards As The 2005 Session Ends At GISD

Groom School has seen some hard times. Decreased funding from the state, sagging property values and a dwindling population have been the harbingers of bad tidings during the past few years. The number of students enrolled in Groom School reached a 25 year low point of 107 students last year. Things were beginning to look pretty grim.

However, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. The school has enjoyed a steady increase in its enrollment and is now up to 121 students. Several families that seem to have no family ties to Groom have moved here for various reasons including Groom's location along I-40, high achievement on student test scores, and a desire to

live away from Amarillo. One always expects a certain amount of families to want to return home, but to survive, Groom is also very interested in attracting new people.

This spring, GISD will graduate 4 students from high school. For the first time in many years, officials are expecting a bigger crop of kindergartners than what they lost in seniors. At least 7 students are expected to pre-register at the kindergarten round-up to be held on May 3 for the fall semester of 2005.

The jury is still out on what, if any, financial help will be forthcoming from the powers that be in Austin. There does not seem to be a clear plan of action from legislators on how education will be financed in the future so

the unknown is still a big factor in Groom ISD's future. One thing is almost certain... funding will at least in part, depend on enrollment.

Aside from Groom's wonderful school system, Groom's Economic Development Corporation has also had a hand in attracting new families. Two wonderful new homes were built in recent years as well as the giving away of several lots for trailers and moved in homes. Their home buyers assistance program has, at the very least, encouraged potential residents to take a look at Groom.

This upward trend is encouraging to all. Do your best to continue to support our school, churches, businesses and make Groom an even better place to live.



Spring storms have made their appearance in the City with about 1.5 to 1.75 inches of rain following in the last couple of days. The soggy ground gave way and this light pole is definitely needing some help!

## Council Hears Info On Grants

The Groom City Council met for the regular monthly business meeting with the following members and visitors present:

Mayor Joe Homer; aldermen Ellis Stapp, Don Case, Chris Welch, Kenneth Weller, and Doug Kling. Visitors include Clyde Jenkins with USDA Rural Development and Mary Sue Lyles, City Secretary.

Jenkins presented some information about loans and grants available to cities and other entities

through the USDA Rural Development. The city is still pursuing the option to replace some old water lines and to upgrade so that the water lines will be in compliance for better ratings for the fire insurance codes. Mr Jenkins encouraged the

city to contact him with any questions they might have.

Doug Kling tendered a motion to continue with the same rates as last year for access line fees that are charged to telecommunications providers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chris Welch moved and Doug Kling seconded a

See CITY, pg. 5

## Laws Concerning ATV's and Golf Carts Explained

By Sheriff Tam Terry

I have received several calls about the legality of the operation of scooters, go-carts, ATVs and the like on public streets. It can be a confusing issue. Without being more confusing let me explain what the law says.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 the law recognizes motor assisted scooters and neighborhood electric vehicles for limited street usage. A neighborhood electric vehicle is any electric powered vehicle that is designed to carry up to 4 persons- with a top speed of 20 to 25 MPH. Basically neighborhood electric vehicles are golf carts. They can be driven on any street or highway with a posted speed limit of 35 MPH or less. They may cross streets or highways with a higher posted speed

limit. The neighborhood electric vehicle must be registered and have a license plate. The operator must have a driver's license and the vehicle or operator must be covered with the required liability insurance. The golf cart is also required to display a slow moving vehicle emblem.

A motor assisted scooter is a self propelled device that has at least 2 wheels in contact with the ground during operation, has a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical

See ATV, pg. 2

## German Cardinal Named Pope

It only took the second day of the Conclave and 4 or 5 ballots for the Cardinals of the Catholic Church to name it's new Pope.

German born, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was named the new leader of the Catholic Church as Pope Benedict XVI. He is

78 years old and was named Cardinal in 1977. It has been 1,000 years since a German has been elected Pope. He was good friends with his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, who was elected 26 years prior. He will serve as the 265<sup>th</sup> Pontiff.

## GROOM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**DO YOU** have a favorite pre-school story you would like to share with pre-school kids this summer during story hour? Contact Karen Case at the Groom Memorial Library at 248-7353.

**GROOM ATHLETIC** Banquet will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Prices	
Whip	\$2.00
Alfalfa	\$1.99
Carrot	\$1.99
Sweetcorn	\$1.50

**A END** of year music program and talent show will be held on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Groom School.

**REGIONAL UIL** will be this Friday, April 22, in Levelland.

**DON'T FORGET** to vote in the May 7<sup>th</sup> election. Early voting begins April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**DON'T FORGET** to have your pets vaccinated for rabies on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

**DON'T FORGET** the Mom's Day Out Spring Program, Open House and Pre-Registration to be held on April 28 at 6:30 p.m. Enrollment is limited. First Baptist Church, Groom.

**MARK YOUR** calendar for the annual Groom ISD Awards Assembly on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**KINDERGARTEN** PRE-REGISTRATION will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Groom School.

**CITY WIDE** garage sale is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. Get your sale add in today!

# The Groom News

USPS 230-380

Second-class Postage Paid at Groom, Texas  
Carson County, Texas, under the Act of Congress  
Of March 3, 1879

Published Weekly except Christmas Week

Publisher-Phillip J. Miller

Groom Editor-Douaa Burton

McLean Editor-Terri Adams

Postmaster, please send address changes to:

P.O. Box 460, Groom, Texas 79039-0460

Subscription Rates:

Annual Rate in Carson County - \$22.00  
Annual Rate elsewhere in the United States-  
\$24.00



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2005

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Attention Sherwood Clients:

Marshall Sherwood will work from home for the next couple of weeks before returning to MD Anderson in Houston for some minor treatment before he undergoes knee replacement.

He is eager to take your calls if you have need. It will be several weeks before he resumes his regular schedule. Contact him at home at 537-3134, in Panhandle.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 21 - D. W. Ashford, Sr.  
April 22 - Jimmy Britten, Jacob Torres, Christopher Britten, Brandi Sustaire.  
April 23 - Mr. and Mrs. Amos Britten (A).  
April 24 - Scott McLaughlin, Travis Britten.  
April 25 - Mrs. R.G. Weller, Sherri Weinheimer Wood, Loretta Kepley.  
April 26 - Tanner Case.  
April 27 - Madison Friemel, Glynn D Harrell, Jeremy Jason Lewis.

## Local Happenings

### Groom City Wide Garage Sale Planned For May 14

Groom will host it's Spring City -Wide Garage Sale on May 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Those interested in having a garage sale may place an ad in The Groom News

for a reduced price of \$4.00. Press releases will be sent to surrounding newspapers which will include the addresses of those who plan to participate. Deadline to place an ad and get your address in the press release is 10:00 am on Monday, May 9. If there are enough participants a list and possibly a map will be made available at participating businesses.

### ROAD WORK AHEAD!

Paving project began on Monday, April 18 in Carson County on FM 294 between US 60 and I-40; and on FM 2386 an between SH 152 & US 60.

Traffic will directed through work zones by a pilot card.

### ATV

operating conditions, has a gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cubic centimeters, has a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device, and the ability to be propelled by human power alone. Like a golf cart, scooters can be operated on any street or highway with a posted speed limit of 35 MPH or less.

A scooter operator is not required to have a driver's license, liability insurance, registration, doesn't have to display a slow moving vehicle emblem, and doesn't have to be inspected. The operator has to comply with all traffic laws that apply to bicycles (speed limits, stop signs, turn signals, etc.)  
An ATV is a vehicle such as a Mule or any 4 wheeler. They can be operated on a public street or highway that is not an interstate if they are being used in connection with agricultural operations. They can only be so operated during the daytime. The operator must have a valid driver's license, illuminate the ATV's headlights and taillights, attach a triangular orange flag to a 8-foot-pole on the back of the ATV, and travel no more than 25 miles from the point of origin.

I have not addressed mopeds. They do require a license, which can be obtained at the age of 15. They must also be registered and have liability insurance.

If you were not confused before reading this, you probably are now. Additional information can be obtained from the DPS web site.

THE BOOK Fair at Groom ISD has been scheduled for May 2-6th.

IT PAYS to shop at home! Broaden our tax base for our city and school by supporting your hometown businesses!

The First Baptist Church will hold their annual end of the year AWANA Grand Prix and Awards program on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 at the Groom Community Center. Refreshments will be provided by the FBC Youth as a fund raiser.

## Groom Rabies Vaccination Clinic



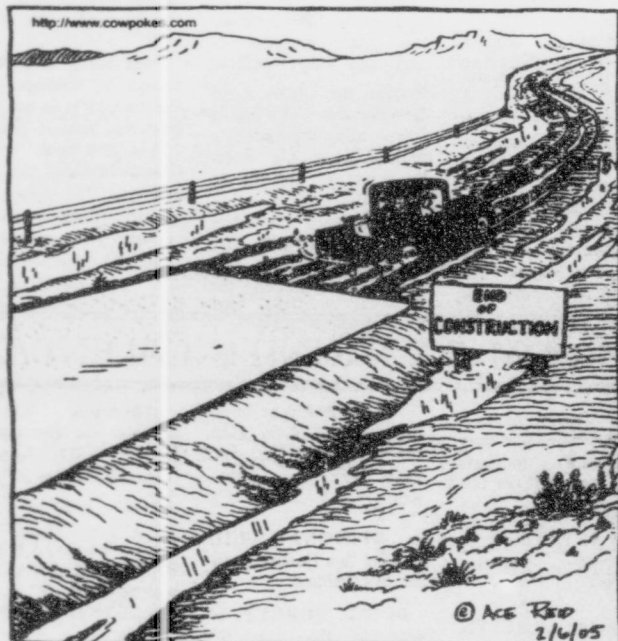
Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Groom City Hall  
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

All Pet vaccines at  
Reduced Fees!  
Rabies - \$10.00 each  
West Nile Vaccine for horses  
and Flea and Tick Control  
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By Ace Reid



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## Groom Basketball Camp 2005

When: June 6-9  
Who: Boys and Girls who will be entering 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades.  
Where: Groom HS Gym  
Times: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade-9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.  
6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade-1:00p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$25.00 if you register before June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
\$30.00 after June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Campers will receive a camp t-shirt and a basketball.  
For more information, contact Doug Galyean.

## BRUMLEY INSURANCE AGENCY



Johnny Brumley-Agent  
Kim Brumley-Ritter-Agent  
Nancy Brumley-Agent

Office  
(806) 248-7550

Groom, Texas



## Groom Students Named to 5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks Honor Roll

**ALL A HONOR ROLL**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Kyler Barkley, Brody Britten, Clinton Galyean, Sara Kelly, Alexandria Ragsdale, Amy Weinheimer,  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Rebekah Roskens  
 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Michael Kelly, Jacob Torres, Maddie Wicberg,  
 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Korri Britten, and Ashley Murray  
 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Joshua Kelly  
 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Michaela Roskens, Chad Barkley  
 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - Thane Barkley, Pat Britten, and Kacie Galyean.  
 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - None  
 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Adam Britten, Friedrike Roessner.  
**ALL A'S & B'S HONOR ROLL**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Amber Adams, Tanner Case,

Caleb Jackson Reyna, Elizabeth Merrell, Victoria Moranic, Macee Rocha  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Subani Bhalta, Hall Bohr, Neve Corley, Kevin Fehr, Taylor Fields, Christopher Homen,  
 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Tanner Britten, Samantha Cleandennen, Myles Friemel,  
 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Tyler Babcock, Tyler Case, Ricky Fehr, Alannah King, Share King, Eric Torres, Trent Britten,  
 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Brett Friemel, Blake Galyean,  
 Ben Thompson, Kelton Wellr,  
 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Kendall Wellr,  
 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - Brandi Bates, Laura Leven,  
 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Shari Britten, Kyra Stevens  
 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Chance Barkley

# Katy Britten To Perform



Katy Britten

Katy Britten has recently been named to the Dean's Honor Roll of Scholars at the University of North Texas. Britten earned a 3.7 grade point average on a course load of 16 hours during the Fall 2004 semester. She attends the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) on the University of North Texas campus in Denton and is currently taking 21 hours during the spring semester.

Additionally, Britten was recently awarded one of the \$4,000 TAMS Summer Research Scholarships by the TAMS administration. She will work for 8 weeks during the summer conducting research in Material Science at the UNT Research Park. Her research will include the testing and formation of various polymers, with the possibility of more advanced research in the latter half of the summer.

Britten has also been very involved in the numerous activities available at TAMS. She is

a member of Academy Players, the theater club, and will be performing in the production of *Beauty and the Beast* on April 22-24. She was recently elected Vice President of Student Affairs of the Ambassadors Club, whose duties include conducting tours and presentations during the Academy's Preview and Interview Days. Britten has also been very active in community service

projects, currently holding over 85 hours of community service completed during her junior year at TAMS. Britten will graduate from the Academy next year with over 70 hours of college credit completed in several subjects including biology, chemistry, physics, math, English, French, history, and research.

## Groom School Lunch Menu

**Breakfast:**  
 Monday: Cold cereal, muffins, juice, & milk.  
 Tuesday: Pancakes, peanut butter, sausage, juice & milk.  
 Wednesday: breakfast burritos, hash brown potatoes, juice & milk.  
 Thursday: Biscuits, gravy, bacon, juice & milk.  
 Friday: Donuts, cinnamon rolls, juice & milk.  
**Lunch:**  
 Monday: Char-broiled steak, scalloped potatoes, black-eye peas, hot rolls, brownies & milk.  
 Tuesday: Steak fingers, french fries, fruit cocktail, Texas toast & milk.  
 Wednesday: Nachos, pinto beans, lettuce, sopapillas & milk.  
 Thursday: Baked turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, jello & milk.  
 Friday: Pizza, salad, pears, crackers & milk.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,  
 We recently visited your pretty little town when our car started ailing and had to be hospitalized. We were happy to find that there was a good mechanic who quickly resuscitated our car. We would like to thank Amy and Fay from the Texaco who, out of the goodness of their hearts, brought us a bag of snackies to munch on while we watched t.v. and waited till our car got out of intensive care. We appreciate the people at the Chalet Inn who run a neat, clean, reasonably priced establishment. We have good memories of your town.  
 Don and Dorothy Fairbanks

**MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL**

OPEN 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**SUNDAY, MAY 8**

Plan to take Mom out for Mother's Day for lunch.



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GROOM, TX

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### Remember Your Loved One With a Memorial....

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church is accepting donations and memorials for the cemetery fund for the proposed new fence that scheduled to begin construction in the near future. Send your donation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery Fund, in care of The State National Bank, Box 577, Groom, Texas 79039 Or be given to one of the following members of the Board, Kelvin Ollinger, Mike Britten, Earl Britten, Ron Kuehler, or Martin Hermesmeier.


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## Athletes Compete Well

By Coach Matt Johnson

The High School track teams competed in the District Meet at Wheeler on Friday, April 8. We had a very good meet, with everyone competing well, and several student/athletes advancing to the area track meet, which is Wednesday, April 13 in Panhandle. Those advancing to area are:

Boys 4x200 relay team consisting of Chance Barkley, Thane Barkley, Blaine Britten, and Chad Barkley.

Thane Barkley competing in the 110 High Hurdles and the triple jump.

Chad Barkley competing in the Shot Put.

Anthony Luna in the 800 meter run.

Michaela Roskens in the 800 meter run.

If any of these student/athletes finishes in the top four places at the area meet, they will

advance to the regional meet in Levelland.

Overall, the boys finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams in the meet with a total of 43 points. Earning points, but not advancing to area for the boys was TJ Moraniec, 5<sup>th</sup> place in the high jump and Chance Barkley, 6<sup>th</sup> place in the 400 meter dash.

For the girls, Michaela Roskens also earned points in the 400 meter dash by placing 6<sup>th</sup>.


The following people competed as well as they have all year, and many came home with personal bests in their events.

Javier Caro  
Brandon Jenkins  
Kendall Weller  
Freddy Roessner  
Sharri Britten  
Kyra Stevens  
Kacie Galyean  
Brandi Bates

This is a very young team, with Chance and Freddy being our only seniors, so we look forward to great things from this group of student athletes for many years to come.



Brandon Jenkins represents Groom ISD well in a recent track meet.



**First Baptist Church  
AWANA Grand Prix  
Sunday, April 24, 2005  
5:00 p.m.  
Groom Community Center  
Everyone Invited!**

**Awards Ceremony**  
There will be a brief "Awards Ceremony," prior to racing, recognizing this year's achievements by Club members.

**AWANA Clubbers "Grand Prix"**  
>Cars must have been built this year  
>1st, 2nd & 3rd trophies will be given

**"Open Division" Racing**  
>Anyone may enter - come join the fun!  
>Cars from previous years may be used  
>Cars raced in the "Grand Prix" this year cannot be raced in "Open Racing"  
>Beat the pastor in "Open Racing"

Refreshments furnished by FBC Youth  
Donations will be accepted!

# Congratulations



**to our Groom Students  
on all of their end of the  
year UIL and athletic  
accomplishments and  
completion of their  
TAKS tests.**

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Route 66 Steakhouse  
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# Carson County Sheriffs Report

Thursday, April 21, 2005-THE GROOM NEWS-Page 5

On Monday morning our jail population was 14. All county prisoners are now being housed in Panhandle. It has been about 6 months since we have not farmed prisoners out. There were 8 persons arrested during the week.

Monday (4/11): Two individuals from Groom turned themselves in on warrants. They were both released on bond.

Tuesday (4/12): Panhandle Chief of Police Rob Roach arrested a 19-year-old Panhandle man for assault with bodily injury/family violence. As of Monday morning the man remains in custody.

Wednesday (4/13): Chief Deputy Scott Sutton picked up a 22 year old man in New Mexico who was being held on our warrants for possession of marijuana between 5 and 50 pounds. The man was returned to Panhandle where he remains in jail.

Thursday (4/14): Trooper Dennis Brassfield arrested a 61-year-old Panhandle man for DWI. The arrest was made at the rest area between Panhandle and White Deer. The man bonded out of jail.

Friday (4/15): Deputy Trevor McGill picked up a 26 year old female from the Hutchinson County Jail where she was being held on

our warrants for bond surrender on an original charge of possession of dangerous drugs. The woman bonded out of jail.

Also on Friday, Panhandle Police Officer Mike Broyles arrested a 46-year-old Panhandle man for Driving While Licenses Suspended. The man bonded out of jail.

Saturday (4/16): Deputy Rick Armstrong arrested a 43 year old man near Cuyler on US 64 for possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz. The man bonded out of jail.

Working in cooperation with the Gray County Sheriff's Office our office recovered a trailer that was stolen from Groom several weeks ago. The trailer was located locked in a barn in rural Gray County. We were concerned about the possibility of locating the trailer since we did not have the proper information to enter it as stolen in the National Crime Information Computer. Instead we e-mailed the information and photographs of the trailer to

area law enforcement agencies. Deputy Rick Armstrong and Sgt. Heath Cates are investigating the theft. A suspect has been charged and is currently being held on separate charges in Gray County.

In closing let me briefly explain my position on releasing the names of

incarcerated persons. As we all know our system of justice is based on the premise of innocent until proven guilty. Because of this premise I do not think that is fair or just to release names of accused persons until they have had their day in court and are convicted of an offense. This is one of several instances where I find my personal feelings run contrary to the letter of the law. The Texas Public Information Act states that certain information, including names of persons arrested, cannot be withheld. Therefore when formal, written, open records request are received my office has no choice but to comply, if the information qualifies for release. Even though I find myself in disagreement with our local papers over this issue, I appreciate their willingness to work with me and also their willingness to allow me to publish this weekly report.

Tam Terry  
(Editor's note: While we understand Sheriff Terry's concerns for those who are arrested in error, this is not a matter of choice on our part. It is one of the many checks and balances provided by law

that help keep corruption and improper actions out of our public offices. For instance, take the case of the former Gray County District Attorney. The law says that public has a right to know that he was being charged with a crime. Had the law not been in place, and if the people in power were unscrupulous; his arrest might have been covered up and voters would have never known. What if no one knew Michael Jackson had been arrested for child molestations? Considering how long it takes for "justice" to be done these days, it can be months before a case goes to trial and while we, too, subscribe to "innocent until proven guilty," we have an obligation inform the public.

The Groom News has tried very hard, with the cooperation of the sheriff's office and the District Clerk's office to let our readers know what happens on cases after the arrest is made, by publishing the results from indictments and district court. If anyone has been arrested mistakenly, we are happy to give them the equal space to tell their story after the charges are dropped.)

## ILL OR RECOVERING

The following are ill or recovering from surgery or illness and could use your kind thoughts and prayers: Katie Talley, Heather Cole, Cheyenne Kosechata, Ernest Lamberson and Nellie Painter.

representative from US Underwater services felt that the storage tanks were in good condition. The full report and the video and still pictures will be mailed to the City of Groom as soon as possible.

Ellis Stapp moved and Chris Welch seconded the motion that the \$2200 funding for the Groom Youth Organization (Formerly

## City

motion to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Amarillo, so that if we ever have need of services for line stoppage equipment for the repair of water lines, video equipment for inspecting water and sewer lines, or high pressure sewer rodder, we will have a contract in place that will allow the city of Groom to request held from the City of Amarillo.

Mayor Homer informed the Council that the team from US Underwater Services were in Groom on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 to

inspect the elevated storage and above ground storage tanks. The

the Summer Program) be paid after a financial statement for the past year is presented.

Doug Kling moved and Ellis Stapp seconded the motion to table a discussion about water rate changes until the May meeting.

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Chris Welch moved and Kenneth Weller seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Kenneth Weller moved and Don Case seconded the motion to pay the bills and accept the financial statement.

With no further business, the council adjourned the meeting at 8:58.

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Homes and Businesses Included  
Saturday, May 7, 2005 Begins at 8:00 a.m.  
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## Case Named President of National Organization

The National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC), which represents the nation's independent crop consultants and researchers, is proud to announce Tim Case recently assumed his role as President for the organization.

Case, owner of Great Plains Crop Services in Groom, Texas, is a Certified Professional Crop Consultant-Independent (CPCC-I) and a Certified Professional Research Consultant. He's been a Contract Researcher for 13 years, an Independent Crop Consultant for eight.

An active member of the NAICC for 13 years, Case will serve as the Alliance's president for the 2005 term. Throughout his membership he's held various other leadership roles, including Executive Board Director and chair, co-chair and member of numerous committees. (The list includes the Awards, Ethics and Grievance, Newsletter Involvement, Researcher Education, Legislative Advisory, Annual Meeting Coordination and Membership Services Committees as well as the Research Consultant Working Group). Case has also represented the

organization at numerous key industry events, including the Commodity Classic and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraiser's meetings.

In his new role as NAICC president, Case plans to continue perpetuating the positive image NAICC has established for consultants in Washington, D.C., where he said they're viewed as unbiased resources working for the good of the American farmer. "We're a credible source among influential political leaders; as president I hope to play a role in extending our reach even further to help ensure the future growth and success of all facets of agriculture," said Case.

Also in his new role, Case said he'd like to broaden the scope of the NAICC's Foundation for Environmental Agriculture Education (FEAE) for the benefit of each Alliance member.

Active in his community and in other ag-related organizations, Case has been a member of the Association of Alliance Leaders and secretary of the Groom Independent School Board. He holds a

Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from West Texas A&M. Case was officially inaugurated as NAICC's new president at the organization's Annual Meeting and largest yearly event in Los Angeles, January 19-22, 2005.

### DIALYSIS INVESTIGATION

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### ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS MAY DEFER PROPERTY TAXES

Texans aged 65 or older may postpone paying delinquent and current property taxes on their homes. They may take advantage of a tax option called "over-65 deferral" by signing an affidavit at the Carson County Appraisal District.

This special form of tax relief also halts a lawsuit filed to collect delinquent property taxes on an older Texan's home, according to Donita Davis, chief appraiser of the Carson County Appraisal District. "To stop a delinquent tax-suit", Davis said, "the over-65 homeowner files the deferral affidavit with the court in which the suit is pending."

"If the affidavit is on file, an older homeowner cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent taxes," Davis said.

Once a homeowner files an over-65 tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for delinquent taxes as long as that person owns and lives in that home.

Davis stressed that the tax deferral for the elderly only postpones paying delinquent taxes on the home, it does not cancel them. During the deferral time, taxes and interest of 8 percent per year continue to add up. She said, "When the elderly taxpayer no longer owns and lives in the home, the taxes become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect all the deferred taxes and interest."

There is no penalty on the delinquent taxes during the deferral time. However, filing the deferral affidavit will not forgive penalties that were already due. Also, if the taxes remain delinquent more than 90 days after the deferral ends, a taxing unit may charge an added penalty if the account goes to a delinquent tax attorney.

Tax deferral forms are available at the appraisal district office. "The homeowner should fill out the form and have the signature witnessed by a notary public," Davis said. For more information, taxpayers may contact the Carson County Appraisal District, at 102 S Main or at 806-537-3569.

Looking for a great way for your organization to make some cash this summer? The Summer Youth Organization is looking for a group to sponsor the concession stands at their baseball games this summer, mostly May and June. Contact Tammy Case at 248-7290 or 248-7251, for more information.

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## UPCOMING AUCTION

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