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VOLUME 126 NO. 19

INSIDE THIS WEEK: POLICE BLOTTER • GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS • TOURISM WEBSITE 16 PAGES | 75¢
POETRY CONTEST WINNERS • THORNTON HOMECOMING • KOSSE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Groesbeck Journal

Serving Limestone County Since 1892

Thursday, May 10, 2018

www.groesbeckjournal.com

GOATS CAPTURE BI-DISTRICT BASEBALL CROWN

10-5 win in Game 2 over Franklin Lions

GAME 1 REPORT INSIDE

By Stephen R. Farris, Special to The Groesbeck Journal

Friday saw heavy thunderstorms hit the Waco area, but by game time of the Groesbeck Goats best two out of three bi-district baseball playoff series with the Franklin Lions, the storms had moved on. With clear skies, the Goats went back to work to record a 10-5 win to sweep the Lions and move on to the area round against the Grandview Zebras.

It was touch and go in the early stages of the ball game as the Lions took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

The Goats came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning as Dylan Rand - just as he did in Game 1 - scored Groesbeck's first run of the night.

With bases loaded, Dravin Barber drew a base-on-balls to score Brayden Bradley from third, giving the Goats the 2-1 advantage.

Franklin regained the lead in the second with a pair of runs to make it 3-2.

In the bottom of the second with one out, Rand and Bryston Ferguson get on base with back-to-back walks, then Grant Johnson smashed a double into the gap in center field, scoring Rand to tie the game at three.

In a weird series of events on the next play, Mark Smith hit into a fielder's choice as the Lions got the force at home, but the throw to first in an attempt to double of Smith went over the head of the first baseman, allowing both Johnson and Bradley to score.

BI-DISTRICT CROWN • PG. 1B



Catcher Grant Johnson makes contact during early action of Groesbeck's second game of the Goats bi-district playoff round against the Franklin Lions on Friday night in Waco. Johnson had two hits in the win, including a double as the Goats went on to win 10-5, sweeping the series 2-0. Photo by Stephen R. Farris

Successful Groesbeck/Mexia Task Force Raid Ends in Four Arrests

No Trespassing Sign Demanding Search Warrant was "happily obliged"

By Alexandra Cannon, Staff Writer

On the evening of May 2, Groesbeck and Mexia Police Departments teamed up yet again to successfully search and seize methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia from a Groesbeck home, resulting in the arrests of 4 adults.

"On cases like this, we partner with other municipalities around us," Groesbeck Police Chief Chris Henson said. "I don't think there's an entity or municipality in the county that can pull these off 100 percent alone."

The operation was completed through the combined efforts of more than a dozen law enforcement officers from both agencies, and Groesbeck PD's K9 Opal, with two teams searching the house and other officers working the perimeter of the property. "We had one suspect dive out of the bedroom

window. I actually ran into him and took him into custody in front of the house," Henson said. "We recovered a decent amount of methamphetamine and of the seven people that were in that house, four were taken into custody. Some are first time felons, and the others have been in the game for a minute. "Arrested were 43-year-old Christi Nabors, 18-year-old Damien Palomin, 27-year-old Ariyca Rivera and 24-year-old Jonathan Rivera, with three possessions of controlled substance charges in varying amounts and a drug paraphernalia charge between them.

"This particular operation came to fruition very quickly," Mexia Police Chief Brian Bell said. "I thought it was a good example of how quickly a successful operation can be put together to accomplish the common goal when two agencies work closely together."

FOUR ARRESTS • PG. 3A

STAAR TEST SOUND OFF

GISD Staff and Administration speak on aspects of the state test and how our district is working to improve

By Alexandra Cannon, Staff Writer

Springtime means the beginning of many things: baseball, allergies, warmer weather... but for educators and administrators, it also means STAAR Testing time, which can equate to high levels of stress. Across the state, high school students tested this week, and next week, grades 3-5 at Groesbeck ISD will take the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test, which in large part determines the district's academic accreditation status. Enge-Washington Intermediate, currently rated "Improvement Required" by the

state, is working hard to overcome that challenge. "This staff is very dedicated," said Superintendent Dr. James Cowley. "I don't think you can teach to the test anymore, it's a matter of can we teach kids how to think and can we reach that point where we get the kids are exposed to information they need and can they apply it. We have a dedicated staff working hard to see our kids be successful, so we hope that is reflected in test scores."

Through the years, the style and structure of tests required by the state of Texas have consistently changed. A writer for the Austin American-Statesman pointed out that "the rigor, stakes and price tag of testing have ratcheted up with each new test since the first state standardized test was administered in 1980".

"With each change came an increase in rigor, from TABS to TEAMS to TAAS to TAKS, which lasted 10 years with the last 5 years harder than the first, and now to STAAR," Cowley said. "Every one of those has been a jump in difficulty and rigor of the assessment. The problem, in my opinion, was when we move to STAAR, we didn't just jump an incremental amount, we jumped an astronomical amount, and that has been tough."

STAAR TESTING • PG. 5A

Groesbeck to be Graced with Performance by Royal Horses

By Alexandra Cannon, Staff Writer

Limestone County Fairgrounds is familiar with equestrian talent: from holding successful Multi-County Youth Invitational Horse Shows to hosting training sessions for the reigning United States Equestrian Drill Team Champions, Prime Time Express, many citizens of the county understand and appreciate a good horse show. Equestrian performance in Limestone County is sure to reach new heights on May 17, when The Gala of Royal Horses presents a show with horses and riders from all over the world.

"We work so hard with our horses to do this show, and they're the most beautiful horses you've ever seen," said Riding Master and producer of the show Rene Gasser. "I think the moment we come

in with the horses and hear the audience's reaction is always one of the best parts. Just to get the feedback from the audience for all we work for."

That's not to say that there aren't some special tricks Gasser can't wait to perform for the enjoyment of the crowd. The Gala of The Royal Horses will include performances that feature the Lipizzaner Stallions, the Spanish Andalusian, Friesian, and the majestic Arabian breeds, as well as the recently added Quarter horse. The event is dedicated to showing off the amazing beauty and maneuvers these horses are capable of including the stunning maneuvers once used on the battlefield now known as "The Airs Above the Ground", "The Art of Garrocha" and "Roman Riding". Gasser stated that horse-lovers enjoy the show but those without equestrian experience also find it thrilling.

ROYAL HORSES • PG. 8A

ELECTION RESULTS

City, Hospital and School Board determined

May 5, 2018 - Many elections were held this past Saturday, May 5 as voters determined the fate of many in city, hospital and school board elections. "A total of 333 voters turned out for early voting in person and of 131 mails ballots sent out; 93 were returned," stated Jennifer Southard, Limestone County Elections Administrator on Friday before election day. More early voting ballots could have been received as the deadline to receive by mail was election day at 7 p.m. for the hospital district only.

The City of Coolidge and Kosse canceled their elections as there was no opposition. Jarod Eno ran unopposed for another term as Kosse mayor. Kosse City Council members Ronnie Funderburk, Harley Leazar, and L. B. Perry also ran unopposed. In Coolidge, Jesse Ashore, mayor, and council members Tonia Bruckner and Deirdre Erwin all ran unopposed.

Groesbeck

Hughes take school board seat over Hunter by 4 votes

In the Groesbeck Independent School District Board of Trustees election, three positions were filled.

For District 3, Tom M. Sutton defeated Tom Levi, with 110 votes (60.44 percent). Levi ended the election with 72 votes (39.56 percent)

In a change for GISD Board of Trustees, Jud Hughes has claimed the win for District 4 with 101 votes (51.01 percent) over Randy Hunter, with 97 votes (48.99 percent)

District 5 winner was Aslone Foy with 140 votes (54.69 percent) over Dr. Garry Dossey, with 116 votes (45.31 percent)

ELECTION RESULTS • PG. 3A

Early Voting for Runoff starts Monday Election day is May 22

By Tom Hawkins, Editor Emeritus



The runoff election for the position of Limestone County judge will be on Tuesday, May 22.

In the March primary election Richard Duncan and Mark Roark were the top two candidates from a field of four candidates. Early voting will be from May 14 through May 18. Early voting will take place at the Limestone County Courthouse in Groesbeck, and the Mexia Civic Center, 101 S. McKinney in Mexia.

Voting precincts have been consolidated for the runoff election.

The consolidated voting precincts for the May 21 runoff election are as follows:

*Mary Helen Nance Community Center, 301 E. 8th St., Thornton, Precinct 102.

*Kosse Community Center, 200 N. Hwy 14, Kosse, Precinct 103.

*Old Union Community Center, Old Union, 3573 FM 3371, Precinct 104.

*Coolidge Civic Center, 806 Bell, Street, Coolidge, Precincts 204 & 205.

*Tehuacana City Hall, 205 S. Railroad St., Tehuacana, Precinct 206.

*Limestone County Courthouse, 200 W. State St. Rm 213, Groesbeck, Precincts 101, 301, 303, 402, 406.

*White Rock Water Supply, 841 LCR 463 (Old Hwy. 14), Mexia, Precinct 304.

*Mexia Civic Center, 101 S. McKinney, Mexia, Precincts 201, 202, 203, 302, 305, 401, 403.

*Shiloh Community Center, 231 LCR 433, Mexia, Precincts 404, 405.

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