

Sheriff, chief deputy, attend conference

Limestone County Sheriff Dennis D. Wilson and Chief Deputy R. T. Beck attended the Sheriff's Association of Texas 131st annual Training conference at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi last month.

More than 1,500 attended the conference.

The first Sheriff's Association of Texas Conference was in 1878. Held annually in various cities across the state, this event allow sheriffs and deputies, plus federal, state and city law enforcement officers to network and discuss issues related to their profession.

This year, participants received training on a variety of topics including the 81st Legislative session; evidence room audits; investigation of police involved in shootings; forensic hypnosis; jail overcrowding, and health care in the county jails of Texas.

Participants also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest in crime fighting tools and technology at more than 240 exhibitor booths.

Wilson would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation and thanks to the many local residents who became associate members of the Sheriff's Association of Texas this past year.

The associate membership program allows citizens to better serve the needs of local law enforcement in Texas. Through the support of the associate members, the Sheriff's Association of Texas

is able to award scholarships to members of the law enforcement families, honor fallen officers through the Lost Lawman Memorial, provide training and legal/technical information to officers from all around the state and develop new training programs for the future.

Web Site helps kids plan their future

(AUSTIN) — A Web site called Get a Life helps middle-schoolers answer the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The Web site is new from Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

Get a Life, at www.getalife.tx.gov, advises 'twens and teens to let their hobbies and interests guide them toward their dream career and to look for activities, classes, volunteer work and paid employment that let them try out possible careers and gain valuable knowledge and skills.

The Web site offers information about fast-growing and well-paying jobs, along with the education required for those jobs.

Get a Life is a kid-friendly approach to the Comptroller's commitment to keep the Texas economy thriving.

More information about Texas' job market and work force needs can be found in Combs' recent Texas Works report at www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/workforce/.

Groesbeck Volunteer Fire Department Needs YOU!

Have YOU ever dreamed of being a firefighter? Did YOU want to grow up to be a lifesaver or a difference-maker? Well, if so, read on!

The Groesbeck Volunteer Fire Department is in need of individuals who live inside the city limits of Groesbeck to become active members of the Fire Department. Currently, there are 35 members on the Department. Of those, only 10 members live in the city. This appears to be a lower number than should be expected considering the population of Groesbeck. The remaining members live anywhere from 2 - 10 miles outside the city limits. What does this mean, you may ask? The more members we have living closer to the Fire Station, the faster our response time would be during an emergency when every minute counts. We would also welcome applicants from the Groesbeck area, but it is critical that we recruit applicants from inside the city limits. The Department is made up of individuals from many walks of life and full-time careers. We are fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, Just like YOU. The one thing members of the Department all have in common is that we desire to serve our community and neighbors. Do YOU have those feelings?

What does it take to become a member of the Fire Department? First, YOU must complete an application, undergo and pass a physical exam (cost compliments of the City of Groesbeck), and attend 3 meetings. Our meetings are at 7:00pm on the second and last Monday of each month and one non-mandatory Saturday meeting a month dedicated to training. During YOUR third meeting, YOUR application will be reviewed by the Department Examination Committee, and a recommendation will be made to the membership present with a vote of the members determining your acceptance into the Department. Once voted into the Department, YOU will be issued Personal Protective Equipment and placed on 6 month probation. During that time, you will be provided opportunities to train on the Department's Standard Operating Guidelines on Fire Suppression, Fire Prevention, Rescue, Auto Extrication, and Pump Operations. YOU will be allowed to respond and participate to/in the majority of calls during that six month period.

What are the benefits to being a member? As a member of the Department, YOU will become a member of an organization with a long history of Tradition & Brotherhood. YOU will have the opportunity to attend annual fire school (at Texas A & M) and/or area classes sponsored by

Texas Engineering Extension Services and Texas Forestry Service (TEEX/TFS). YOU will be able to participate in all fundraising activities as well as any special events (i.e. parades, banquet, fire prevention week). YOU will be covered fully by Worker's Compensation in case of injury. YOU will also be covered by a very good life insurance policy through the Volunteer Firefighters Insurance System (VFIS). In addition, we are extremely proud to offer YOU a retirement plan (for those members who reach 15 years of service).

The current members of the Groesbeck Fire Department are very proud of our service to the city of Groesbeck and Limestone County. We consider ourselves professional volunteers and hold all members to a higher standard. However, the benefit to this mentality helps us provide above average service while maintaining safe operations. YOU can be a part of this brotherhood if you are willing to donate the time. To maintain membership in the Department, YOU are only required to attend 60% of scheduled meetings and respond to 25% of the emergency calls annually.

Citizens of Groesbeck, we need YOU! Will YOU answer the call? For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact Fire Chief Bratcher @ (254) 645-0268, Deputy Chief Thompson @ (254) 747-0663, Assistant Chief Samuels @ (254) 495-9921, or Fire Station @ (254) 729-2827.

Thank YOU for consideration of this appeal, Groesbeck Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs

Groesbeck ISD is academically acceptable

The Texas Education Agency released the accountability ratings for the school districts of the state late last week.

The Groesbeck Independent School District received a rating of academically acceptable according to Karon Golden, GISD Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Mrs. Golden stated that the Groesbeck Elementary School received recognized status while Groesbeck High School and Groesbeck Middle School both received ratings of academically acceptable.

Mrs. Golden stated that more information on the accountability ratings will be announced at a later date.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Tom:

I have been on vacation and when I returned and caught up on my Groesbeck Journal reading I was pleased to see the article about Jill Harryman receiving the UIL Outstanding Sponsor Award from the University Interscholastic League. What an honor for such a deserving person! It was my distinct privilege to work with Jill for several years at Groesbeck High School. Jill was (is) an outstanding teacher who touched the lives of many, many students during her teaching career. In addition to her classroom duties she coordinated the high school UIL Academic Program, and from the time she took over, the program quickly zoomed to new heights in success, going from the bottom of the heap to an annual contender for the best UIL Academic Team in the District. Additionally, her journalism students qualified for the state meet several times and winning the first place spot on occasion and placing in the top three regularly.

It is extremely pleasing to see that Jill has been recognized by the University Interscholastic League for her efforts over the years. Being the modest person that she is, and knowing she would not toot her own horn, it was really nice to see the Groesbeck Journal recognize her success due to the nomination for the award by the Principal Keri Thoele.

Groesbeck High School is extremely fortunate to have Jill in the faculty. Teachers like her are hard to find.

Respectfully submitted,
Butch Luce
Retired Principal of Groesbeck High School - Lake Limestone

Dear Editor:

It requires an enormous amount of money to elect candidates to the United States Congress. Most of the money given to elect candidates to Congress comes from the financially affluent. Senators and representatives are likely to remember and are prone to favor those who provided the money to enable their election.

It requires huge amounts of money to hire lobbyists who will arrange entertainment for powerful people in government, develop public relations campaigns and help write legislation.

The multitudes of people who struggle to pay for the necessities of life are unable to contribute money to politicians and lobbyists. The enormous groups who are unable to contribute funds have a very weak voice in their government.

Abraham Lincoln's hope for a government of the people, by the people and for the people is still a dream.

Sincerely,
Dale Brown

Views expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.

Scholarship Fund in memory of James Ryan Bates

A scholarship fund has been set up at the Farmers State Bank in memory of little James Ryan Bates.

This scholarship will be given to the Groesbeck graduating students of 2221 who were in the 2009 kindergarten class of Ms. Schneider's Spiders.

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