

# Howl-O-Ween

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Maddux and two employees -- Richard and Kevin Rose -- started the transformation process early last week.

"We've got the stage set up, and we've actually expanded it this year," Richard said. "We've added four feet across the front and raised the roof a bit."

They've also been setting up the front gate, and setting up tents and RV spaces.

"We'll have 30 RV sites with electricity and water," Kevin said, "and we're setting up shade tents so folks can get out of the sun."

To provide a place for guests to go when nature calls, Maddux has ordered 20 to 30 portable toilets from Groesbeck-based D&M Septic Services.

"It's hard to tell how many people are going to show up," Maddux said. "If we have more people than we are expecting, we'll give D&M a call and have them bring more."

The septic company isn't the only area business that hopes to cash-in on the biker bash.

Johnny Lowther, a manager at Brookshire's, said the Groesbeck grocery store will have larger stocks of beer, ice and other items on hand during Howl-O-Ween weekend.

"We always do a big business during the bike rallies," Lowther said. "It's usually a great weekend for us. Of course they will be buying beer and ice, but steaks, potato chips and paper goods -- towels, plates and plasticware -- also are big sellers."

Lowther said Brookshire's likely will have more employees on duty than on a typical weekend.

Don Koenig, who along with daughter Karen operates three Groesbeck convenience stores, also is expecting a big weekend.

"We'll be stocking up on beer and ice," he said.

Local restaurants -- especially those that serve breakfast -- also do well during bike rally weekends.

During the Texas Independence Day rally, which also is held at the Lost Prairie ranch, restaurants such as Mary's Breakfast & Burger Barn and Mi Rancho were packed.

"We were really busy, and they were eating big breakfasts," Mary Johnson, owner of the Breakfast & Burger Barn, said after the March rally.

Don Stevens, owner of Stevens' Family Steakhouse, said his restaurant also is packed during local biker rallies.

Groesbeck Police Chief Jerri Almy said her department won't be putting additional officers on the streets during Howl-O-Ween weekend.

"There will be a lot more motorcycles around town and everything will be busy, but we've never had an incident," she said.

Limestone County Sheriff Dennis Wilson agreed.

"We've never had a major incident with this group," he said. "For the most part, they're very cordial. The rallies are good for the economy -- businesses are usually busy when they are in town."

Wilson encourages local motorists to be extra careful when driving that weekend because of the increased motorcycle traffic.

"You have to be more alert and more aware when you're

sharing the road with motorcycles," he said.

Howl-O-Ween officially starts at noon Friday and ends Sunday. The ranch is located about eight miles east of Groesbeck on Highway 164.

The bash will feature five Texas bands, the Biker Olympics and numerous contests, some of which are of an adult nature.

Popular Kosse musician Wes Hardin and his Country Outlaws band will kick off Friday's stage show at 5:30 p.m. The Electric Blues Crew will perform at 9 p.m. The Crew specializes in rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll.

On Saturday night, rock band Piece of My Heart will take the stage at 5:30 p.m., followed by blues act Dr. Shame's Love Circus. Marvin Fields, a well-known Jimmy Hendrix tribute artist, will break out his electric guitars at 11 p.m.

Maddux, who also owns Lost Prairie Cycles, says this year's Howl-O-Ween will be the ranch's biggest rally ever. About 400 people showed up at a 2005 gathering, and crowds have grown with each rally.

"The crowd has just about doubled at every rally we've had," Maddux said. "We had about 2,000 at the Texas Independence Day rally, and we're a bigger crowd at Howl-O-Ween."

Tickets will be \$40 per person at the gate. RV spaces are available for \$35 for three days, and tent camping will be free.

Those attending must be at least 21 year old.

For more information, visit [www.thehotrally.com](http://www.thehotrally.com) or call (254) 729-3104.

# Election

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house Annex in Mexia during the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Early voting for the City of Groesbeck election is being conducted at the Groesbeck City Hall; however, election day voting for the City of Groesbeck will be at the Limestone County Courthouse.

## State Constitutional Amendment Election

Eleven proposed constitutional amendments will be presented to the voters of Texas for approval or rejection. For more details please see the Constitutional Amendment Voters' Guide as provided by State Senator Steve Ogden. This guide gives the amendment as worded on the ballot and also background of each amendment and also the pro's and con's of each amendment. Also, additional comments will be found in the Editor's Corner.

## GISD Bond Election

The \$8 million bond election for the Groesbeck Independent School District will be centered on purchasing a new fleet of buses to replace the school district's aging fleet. Other items, which will be covered in the bond issue will be a 200 ton chiller for the high school, two boilers for the high school, HAVAC units (district wide), high school renovation, high school classroom construction, technology, and support services building.

By passing the bond issue the Groesbeck ISD will be able to send less money to the state. Since the GISD is a Chapter 41 school (wealthy school district), it had to send 54 per cent of maintenance and operating fund taxes collected in 2008-2009 to the state. Taxable revenue used

to pay off bonded indebtedness do not have to be sent to the state.

According to the Groesbeck Public School Community Facility Committee, the school district will be saving over \$9 million by going the bond issue route on financing the above listed items.

Additional comments will be found in the Editor's Corner.

## City of Groesbeck Election

The City of Groesbeck is proposing to increase the City's hotel/motel tax by 2 percent. The additional hotel/motel tax income will be go toward financing a new civic center for the City of Groesbeck.

The current Civic Center was built in the early 1970s through funds raised by the Red Stocking Follies. It is in need of repair and remodeling. Also, there is limited parking space at the present civic center.

The City of Groesbeck Civic Center Committee as well as city officials and other community leaders feel that a new and modern civic center could bring more events to Groesbeck and thus increase not only the city's hotel/motel tax but also the city sales tax and also lead to more commercial traffic for local businesses. Remember, early voting for this election is at the Groesbeck City Hall, but election day voting for the City election will be at the Limestone County Courthouse.

Additional comments will be found in the Editor's Corner.

## Consolidated Voting Places

Several county voting precincts have been consolidated for the November 3rd elections. These consolidated polling places pertain to the constitutional amendment election and the

GISD bond election.

Listed below are the polling places with the location of the polling places given first and then the precinct number or numbers. It is also noted if a particular voting precinct pertains to the Groesbeck ISD school bond election.

\*Thornton -Walters Community Center, 301 E. 8th Street, Thornton -- Precinct 102 (Groesbeck ISD).

\*Kosse Community Center, N. SH 14, Kosse -- Precinct 103 (Groesbeck ISD).

\*Old Union Community Center, 3573 FM 3371, Old Union -- Precinct 104 (Groesbeck ISD).

\*Prairie Hill Water Supply, 5337 A Hwy. 73 W., Prairie Hill -- Precinct 204 (Groesbeck ISD and Mt. Calm ISD). Mt. Calm ISD is also having an election on Nov.3rd and part of the Mount Calm ISD is in Limestone County and voting precinct 104.

\*Coolidge Civic Center, 806 Bell St., Coolidge -- Precinct 205.

\*Limestone County Courthouse, 200 W. State St., Room G 13, Groesbeck -- Precincts 101, 105, 301, and 303 (Groesbeck ISD). As stated previously those voting in the City of Groesbeck hotel/motel tax election will vote at the Courthouse on election day, but will early vote at the Groesbeck City Hall.

\*Mexia Civic Center, 101 S. McKinney, Mexia -- Precincts 201, 202, 203, 206, 302, 304, 305, 401, 403, 404.

\*Farrar Baptist Church, 171 LCR 846, Farrar -- Precincts 402 and 406 (Groesbeck ISD).

\*Prairie Grove Baptist Church, 2678 FM 1953, Prairie Grove -- Precinct 405 (Groesbeck ISD).

# SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES

Groesbeck area motorists will notice a sizeable increase in the number of motorcycles on the road this weekend because of the Howl-O-Ween Biker Bash scheduled for Lost Prairie. Here are some tips for sharing the road with motorcycles:

- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows the biker to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- Remember that motorcyclists often are hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look because of their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic.
- Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle. Motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists.

Be aware that motorcyclists may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road or traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings and grooved pavement.

- Allow more following distance -- three or four seconds -- when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- Allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traffic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full room to maneuver safely. Do not share the lane.
- Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Drivers of other passenger vehicles should always remember to follow these steps to help keep motorcyclists safe.

# Restoration Project

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at competitions during his junior year. He found the old tractor near Red Hill, and the machine's owner, Van Burkheart, agreed to let Trent restore his rusty, worn-out Farmall.

"To be honest, it did look pretty far gone," Trent said Friday at Groesbeck High School. "But, it did look do-able."

Trent began restoring the old tractor On Nov. 8 of last year with the intentions of entering the Farmall in several competitions. After months of sanding, painting and getting the tractor in working condition, he was finally ready to place his project in a competition.

"We were just about to put it on a trailer and haul it to the Houston Livestock Show when I discovered a hole in the gas tank," Trent said quietly. "Fuel had run all over the fresh paint, causing it to bubble. We were on our way out the door when I discovered the leak."

That discovery kept Trent and the Farmall out of spring competitions. Instead, after taking a short break from his project, the young mechanic was back to work sanding off the old paint and applying a new coat, and repairing the leaking fuel system. He finished the project in September, just in time

for the Oct. 6 State Fair.

Trent was pleased with his showing in Dallas, and now he's planning to hit all the major shows that offer tractor restoration competitions.

"I'm planning on going to San Antonio, San Angelo and Houston," he said. "And I want to display it at the Limestone County Fair."

Trent has put in hundreds of hours on the restoration project.

"I worked on it for a couple hours a night at least two nights a week," he said. "And, I worked on it everyday during and after school. This is definitely something you have to like to do. If you don't like mechanical work, restoring old tractors is not for

you."

Trent said he plans to attend Texas State Technical College after graduation and hopes to eventually land a job as a safety inspector at a power plant or with OSHA.

Brightwell said several other Groesbeck High ag students are busy working on mechanics projects.

He said Tray Kreder, Cody Adams, Jacob Hitchcock and Janzen Echol are working on a catch trailer, and Seth Griggs is constructing a rear-replacement bumper for a school truck.

"We'll have some more," Brightwell said. "We'll have more projects, some are still being drawn up."

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## Fall Frolic

A reminder to those who purchase their Journal's on Wednesday that the annual Fall Frolic will be downtown Groesbeck on Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m.

## Editor

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help finance a new civic center. The tax is paid by the customers of the hotels, motels and bed and breakfast accommodations.

The present Civic Center has served the community well for 35 years. However, it is in need of many repairs and improvements and modernization. Also, the parking is very limited.

Over the years, this Editor has assisted with many events at the present Civic Center and lack of several things such as storage places has made arranging for events more difficult. Also, many times a smaller meeting room would be good for a particular group and more than one event or meeting could be taking place at the same time. And, of course, parking is limited.

This Editor believes that a new and modern civic center could bring more events to Groesbeck and increase the commerce for the businesses of the community and would also increase both the hotel/

motel tax and the sales tax for the city.

This Editor recommends voting "YES" on the city of Groesbeck proposal to increase the hotel/motel tax by 2% to help build a new civic center.

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In regard to the Constitutional Amendments, this Editor calls attention to the Constitutional Amendments Voters Guide which will be found in this week's Journal. This guide was provided by State Sen. Steve Ogden.


This Editor urges all of voters to very carefully look at Amendment No. 11. This amendment is important to landowners as it pertains to eminent domain.

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Be sure to vote in this election. Early voting by personal appearance ends this Friday.

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This Editor is predicting pretty autumn weather for the next several days!



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