

# We're BACK



with  
new rules.

### 2015 Blizzard?

Since school didn't start until Tuesday, siblings Molly, 4th, and Davis Babcock, 1st, took advantage of the fresh snow playing in it at every opportunity. The Babcock kids are normally seen playing outside, but playing in the snow was a special treat.



Photo Cred: Jill Babcock

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



### Tigers vs. Tigers

Duo ninth-grader Corbin Ruthardt and senior Nate Roskens, play defense against a Hartley offensive player. Roskens had many steals for several layups, but it wasn't enough to better the Hartley Tigers.

Photo by S. Ritter

### Short Stack

Eighth-grader Cade Linquist shoots a lay up straight up the lane in the Miami Tournament against Canadian. The Cubs won against Higgins and Canadian and were going to the championship game. But, due to weather, the Saturday portion of the tournament was canceled due to a snowstorm.



Photo by S. Ritter



Photo by Madison Friemel

### Enforced Policy Graces School Hallways But, Not Student Hearts

When students returned to school from Christmas break they learned that cellphones would no longer be allowed during school hours. As a result, frustration seemed to have filled the halls.

"I think we should have our phones during breaks to text my mom," sophomore Charity Perry said.

Administration cracked down on cell phone usage on school campus. Faculty members cited this phrase from the student handbook in support.

"... Devices must remain turned off during the instructional day."

Students used cellphones for music, entertainment, contacting parents and even ordering lunch from the grocery store.

"I hate it because we can't use it (cellphone) at lunch to play games," sixth-grader Cael Rudthardt said.

In many cases cellphones have become a higher priority than school-work making administration feel like this is the last resort.

"Students were using the cellphones in inappropriate ways," Principal Steven Vanderpool said. -Matthew Bowen

#### What phone?

Principal Stephen Vanderpool collected phones as he enforced the new cell phone rule. Here freshman K'Leigh Keesee hides hers.

**78%** of American teens that are ages **12-17**

have cell phones. - Pew Research Center

More than

**26 million**

Americans play basketball.

- Sports & Fitness Industry Association



Photo by S. Ritter

Thursday



Photo by S. Ritter

#### Back in Miami

Seventh-grader Graci Treadwell, dribbles in one of the many games from the Miami Tournament. Like the boys, the girls were set to play in the championship by beating Canadian and Higgins, to get there. But, the junior high girls were unable to compete to finish out the tournament due to weather.

Friday

#### Girls Begin District

District basketball begins for the varsity girls program, but it didn't begin with a win. They lost to the Silverton Lady Owls. Sophomore Morgan Trevino shoots in the last quarter in an attempt to better the score and finish the game out.

"What I remember most about that game was it was awesome," Morgan Trevino said. "It always kept me on my toes."

# Lessons on...

## School Board 'Stuff'

Some students know the district has a school board, and some may know who is on it, but do they really know what those people do? This question was met with many blank stares from elementary students - boys, girls - kindergarteners all the way through to sixth-graders. Many categorized what the school board does as "stuff." So, what exactly is stuff? Along with stuff, a common word in all of the answers was "help." That may be all students need to know. They help. According to the Texas Association of School Boards, here's the scoop: "School Boards don't run schools. School Boards make sure schools are well-run." -Sydney Ritter

"They spend the schools money!"

-Kindergartener  
Karoline Shuck



"They help the school, the basketball teams, and the gym."

- first-grader  
Emily Britten



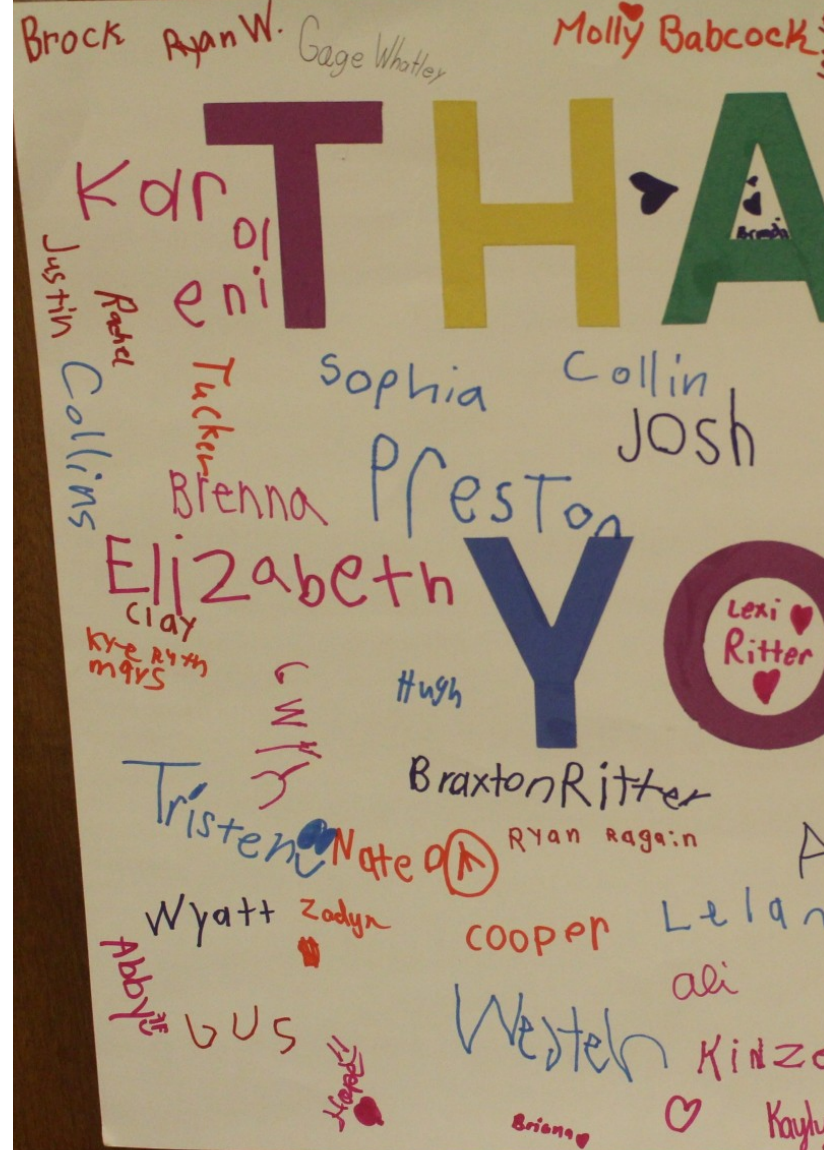
"They tell you stuff."

- second-grader  
Cooper Treadwell



"My dad's on there! He tells people stuff!"

- second-grader  
Jocelyn Rocha



Groom Greeting of Gratitude - During School Board Appreciation Week, which was Jan. 11-15.

Monday

Tuesday



### High Point

Eighth-grader Whitt Ward shoots a lay up to keep his high-point title. Ward lead the Cubs in points most of their games. His scoring helped them achieve a winning record, which was the team's season goal.

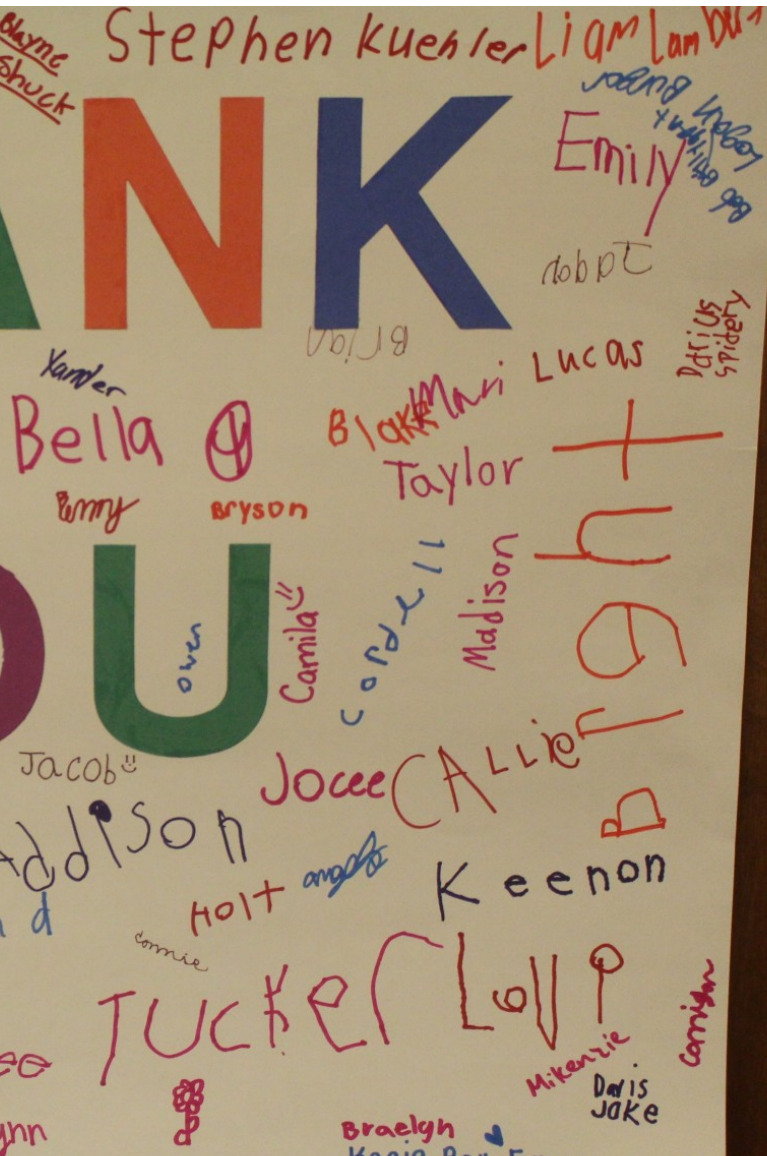
### Boys' First District Game

Senior Cade Ruthardt passes to a teammate to try and catch the McLean Tigers in a close game. Groom kept the score within five points, but couldn't put the game away for a district win.



# Leaders

## students focus on school board



students created and presented this "thank you" poster for and to the Groom board.



"They have meetings."  
Braxton Ritter- 3



"They do plans for the school."  
- fourth-grader  
Gage Whatley



"People that help the school and pay for the school's stuff."  
- fifth-grader  
Zadyn Johnson



"They run the school."  
- sixth-grader  
Trace Parker

**7**  
Groom had 7 school board members during the **2015-2016** school year. Officers included: Ron Kuehler - President, Brady Miller - Vice President, and Greg Hendricks - Secretary. Other members were Cecil Gwyn, Greg Lambert, Cara Ashford and Tony Rocha.

### Wednesday



#### Helping Hands

Freshman Halle Barkley and Senior Kaden Bennett get chairs and tables ready for the show Carson County Stock Show. Wednesday, Jan. 15, ag class members headed to Panhandle to prepare for the annual agricultural event. Students set up pens, cleaned the facility, and did other required jobs.

### Thursday

#### 1st Win of the Season

Sophomore Charity Perry, dribbles and looks to make an open pass to a fellow Tigerette against the Hedley Lady Owls. "I was excited for another win for the Groom Tigerettes!" Perry said.



### Friday

Alabama beats Clemson in college football championship.



**ShortER Stack**

Sixth-grader Damon Kuehler might have been the shortest player on the team, but he did not play small. The younger player played defense just as well as any other player, not using his size, but using his quickness to steal the ball and get many quick shots and lay ups for the Cub team.



**Monday**

**Tuesday**



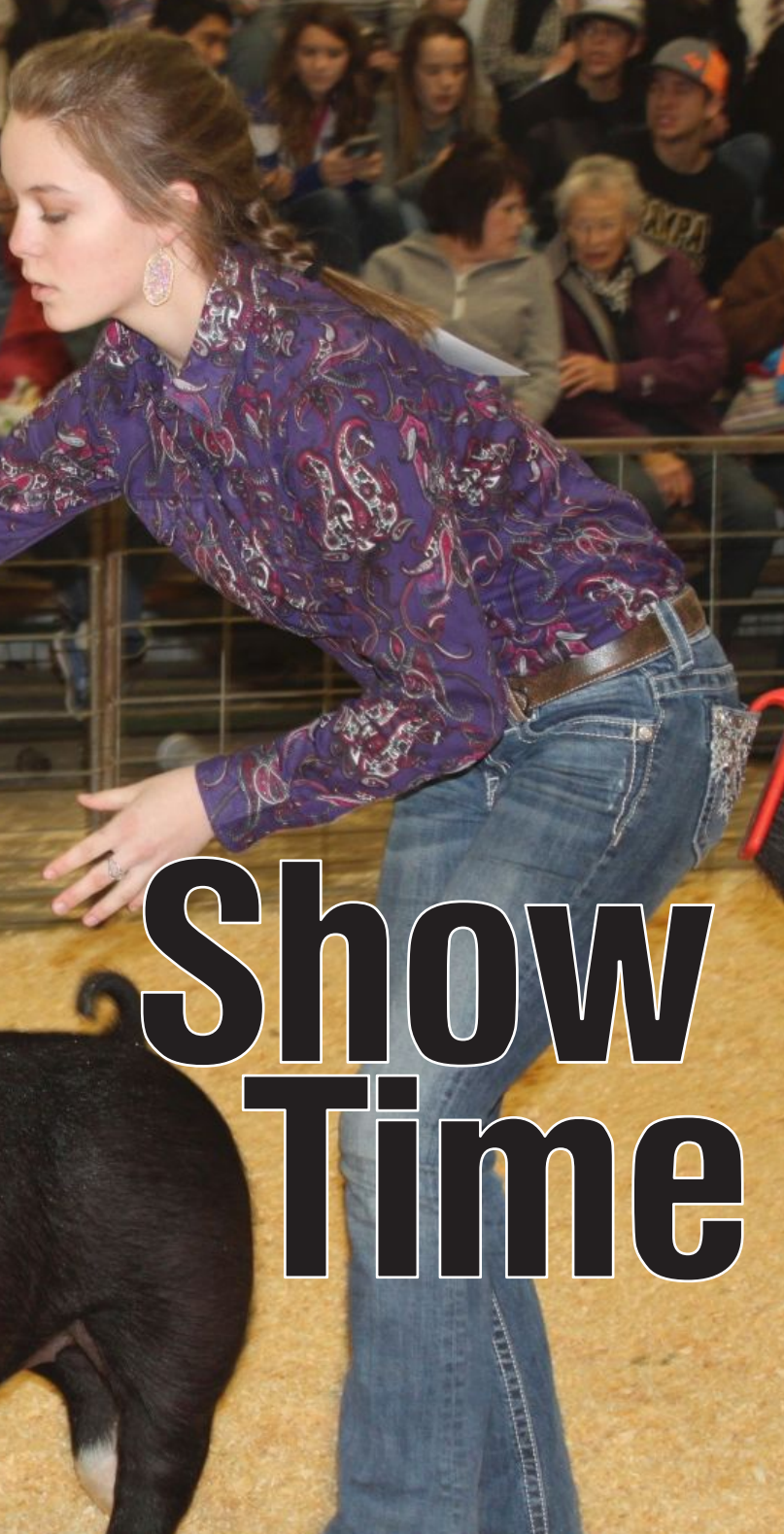
**Team-work!**

Freshman Cayden Lambert and Junior Carson Ritter both rebound the same ball. Ritter was high point of the game with 15 points, and Lambert contributed many minutes to the game, but their efforts weren't successful, bringing the Tigers' district record to 1-2.

**Free Throws - the Best Part**

Sophomore Jamey Germany picks up her dribble in the game against the Valley Lady Patriots. Germany made three out of four free throws that game, helping the Tigerette's score come to a total of 22 points, but not enough to beat Valley's 65.





# Show Time

## Keesee powers through pressure

Pig showing doesn't sound appealing for the more indoorsy students, but for some, including freshman K'Leigh Keesee, they said they "absolutely love" it.

"Before I enter the arena, I get very nervous, but once I'm in the arena my straight face comes on, and then I'm serious," Keesee said.

Not everyone has enjoyed hobbies that require morning and evening feedings, but the students who participated in the Carson County Stock Show - and other events - did.

"I take showing very seriously because it's one of my hobbies," Keesee said.

In the photo you can see the large crowds that gather to watch the competitors work with their

animals, which brings additional pressure on most young ag students, but not Keesee.

"In the arena, it feels like it's just me and my pig, even though we're really competing with other competitors."

This pastime, though, fills more than just spare time. The hours and days required can be consuming.

"Showing isn't just a passion for me; it actually calms me down because while showing, I have nothing to worry about," the freshman said.

Many students find the show ring to hold their future "like some crystal ball," but for others, it has the opposite effect, Keesee said. "When you're showing, you're just showing. Yes, the judge will watch you. Yes, it can be nerve-racking, but it all turns out to be you and your pig - just doing what you do best." - Sydney Ritter

**11** students participated in the Carson County Livestock Show, including these:

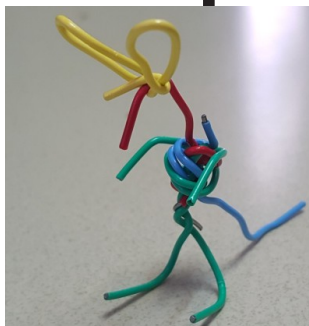
**4th**-grader Gage Whatley - Grand Champion Lamb, Best of Breed American Steer and **9th**-grader Halle Barkley - Reserve Best of Breed Swine Chester Pig.

Then, the following Groom students also were **1st**-place Finishers - Whatley, lamb and steer; Barkley, swine; **5th**-grader Owen Britten, swine; and

**3rd**-grader Braxton Ritter, swine. These students were **2nd**-place finishers: Ritter, swine; **5th**-grader Trace Parker, swine; **9th**-grader Lauren Kuehler, swine; Britten, swine; sixth-grader Mallie Williams, swine; **9th**-grader K'Leigh Keesee, swine. Coming in **3rd**-place was **3rd**-grader Hope Hickey with her goat. **4th**-Place finishers included Britten with a lamb and Parker with a goat.

**5th**-place finishers rounded out the Groom places with Britten again with a lamb, and **8th**-grader Hallie Thompson joined Keesee, each placing in the swine categories.

### Wednesday



#### Lack of Internet Leads To...

Meet Joey Clip the newest member of the Journalism staff. He is a product of "geniusness and boredom" due to lack of internet. on Jan. 20. "The class he was made in will remain unspecified, yet the creators were Nate Roskens, Andrew Ingle and myself," Junior Carson Ritter said.

### Friday

#### She's Back!

Coach Jay Lamb was also sick for the game later in the week against the Lefors Lady Pirates, and unfortunately missed the win. He also missed the come back of Junior Leslie Germany, who was out with a torn meniscus injury in her knee since before district. The junior came back with a bang contributing to the winning score of 28-19.



### Saturday

**Very 'Vetrinariany'**

Freshman Halle Barkley holds a dog as her ag class prepared for the FFA veterinary-skill competition. There, students performed a physical examination like a real vet would. Other tested skills included filling out exam paperwork, identifying different breeds of different animals, and in the physical exam, knowing how to find an animal's pulse, body condition score, and its respiratory rate.



**Personal ... Perfect Career**

"I am going to pursue a career in veterinary medicine because I love helping animals. I had a personal experience with a vet ... Max fought a bull and got really badly injured ... My dad took him to the vet and Max came home the same day. I was amazed and thought that's what I wanted to do when I get older."

-Morgan Trevino



**Vet Tech Variety**

Sophomore Lauren Kuehler examines a volunteer animal in class on Feb. 8.

"Vet tech is like learning how to become a vet. You have to learn how to fill out a new-patient sheet for an animal, look and classify an organism by looking through a microscope, determine a breed of an animal, learn how to create your own blood smear, and so much more. Vet tech is a great learning experience and is a very enjoyable occupation."

-Lauren Kuehler



**Attached to the Animals**

"I have learned ... in small animal management ... a job in veterinary medicine would be awesome, but I'm not ... able to watch animals come and go without getting attached. So, I won't be pursuing a career in veterinary medicine any time soon. In practicing for this contest, I have learned ... (all of the skills required) ... as well as how much fun Mrs. (Kamy) Whatley can be."

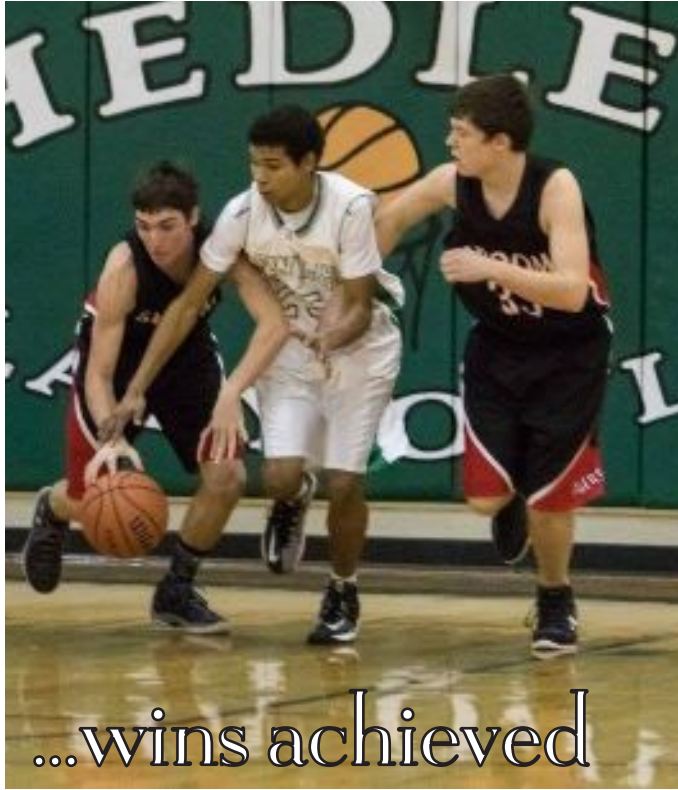
-Halle Barkley

# Life Lessons



...examinations made





**Double-Teamed**  
Junior Carson Ritter and Freshman Matthew Bowen double team a Hedley Owls player to get a rebound. The Tigers defeated the Owls 54-42. Ritter had a season high of 25 points that game, contributing to the win. "I shot a lot of free throws that game and ran for a lot of fast breaks." Ritter said after this game, where he set a personal scoring record for himself.



**Saves for the Win**  
Sophomore Chelsey Lamb saves a ball headed out of bounds and protects the faces of the teammates on the bench. The Eltes' won 41-38 against the Hedley Lady Owls. Saves like Lamb's and free throws helped win the game in the end.



**Two Close Ones ...**  
Seventh-grader Braxton Johnson dribbles on a fast break to help the Cubs beat the Valley Patriots at home. The Cubs final score was 50-29 after also winning the first game against them close at their place, 50-28. Johnson was a key defensive contributor in the game.

...wins achieved

**Unusual Fruit**

"I made it with a Dragon fruit as the bacteria cell, a sour punch straw for the flagellum, tooth picks for the bristles/plus, Twizzlers for the chromosome, the seeds for the ribosomes, and a Jolly Rancher for the plasmid." - Freshman Cutter Babcock



**Tasty Combination**

"I made my cell model with Jello, candy, an apple, pine nuts that come from a pine tree, and cheese. I didn't eat it because it was gross and nasty. I only made it edible for extra credit!" - Freshman Corbin Ruthardt



**Mom's Help**

"Being so busy, I made the base cookie of it right after basketball practice and did the icing after OAP practice. Honestly without my mom helping, I never would've finished." - Freshman Sydney Ritter



**Would You Eat It?**

Many teachers require students to make models for classes to represent and get a closer look and understanding of the topic, but Mr. Larry Roskens project on cell models is different ever so slightly. It's different because if it is edible, and more importantly good to eat, you will receive extra credit. While some students ignored the good to eat part, other students used this incentive, and went all out for those few extra credit points for Roskens' test grade project.

**Bacteria Cell**

**Animal Cell**

**Plant Cell**

Here's 5 of  
**12**  
...cell models  
created



**Just In Case...**  
"I made it edible so if I got a bad grade, there would be extra points just in case. I made it a pizza with pepperonis, peppers, black olives, and onions." - Freshman Madison Friemel



**Cake, cake, cake**  
"I made my cell model out of confetti cake with colored cream cheese icing on top and tons of different candies." - Freshman Halle Barkley



# Reaching for the Reins



## FFA group hosts AG



### Utter-Fascination

Chelsey Lamb taught Leland Tipton about cows, and how to milk a cow. After learning with Lamb, Tipton went on to practice his milking skills using a surgical glove for the utter.

### Calf Slobber

Second-grader Hugh Britten lets the calf suck on his thumb like a bottle. The calf sucked on many students fingers, but in the pre-k's case, the calf sucked their whole hand because their hands were so little.



## 2 new groups team to share



### One 1st Documents 1st in Long Time ...

Senior Nate Roskens videos as Senior Justin Cornell interviews Sophomore Helena Ybarra and her horse during the ag fair held Feb. 26. This year marked the first time for Groom to have a broadcast journalism class, which aired weekly segments. It also was the first year for ag and FFA to be back in more than a decade.

### Hands-On Horse Safety Lesson

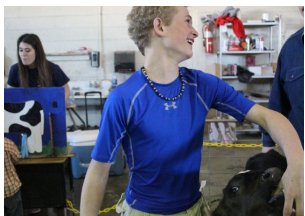
Second-grader Tucker Hinson, Pre-kindergartener Westen Ashford, and second-grader Hugh Britten participate in a horse-safety presentation given by sophomore Helena Ybarra. According to the boys, she taught them to "never walk underneath the horse, always be calm around horses and other important" safety tips. After the short presentation, the students were allowed to pet the horse, whose name was "Brown." Ybarra said Brown was "an older horse," who was "calm" and who "liked people to pet him." Ybarra's demonstration joined forces with those of other junior high and high school ag students who participated in the FFA's Ag Fair on Feb. 26, held at the ag barns and in the ag garage.

# Fair



### Bottle Fed, or Finger Fed?

Freshman Corbin Ruthardt also joins in on the calf slobbering, but afterward, he feeds the calf with a real bottle. Students learned how a cow's tongue feels, and how they use a bottle.



### Horse Safety

Kindergartener Josh Farley pets "Brown" after sophomore Helena Ybarra presents a horse safety presentation to his class. She talks about how to hand feed the horse, how not to spook the horse, and how always to be calm around a horse.