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## Ron VanMeter, Permian Basin Auto Club continue

### support of MC Automotive students

BY NANCY THORNE  
Public Information Office

**F**ounded in 2000, The Permian Basin Auto Club was the brainchild of Ron VanMeter, who invited area car enthusiasts to gather for cars, camaraderie and teaching, but mostly to raise money in "giving

back to the community." Fifty people showed. The club membership has more than doubled since then, with as many as 143 members one year.

Their first car show was held in February of 2001, and from their proceeds they gave \$10,000 in scholarships to MC's Automotive Technology students. The Permian Basin Auto Club Car Show, held every year since, continues to grow, and this past February, 1,300 people came to the Horseshoe Arena to see the 114 entries, judged in 25 different classes of cars. The result: \$5,000 in scholarships will be awarded to MC Automotive Technology students this Tuesday evening at the MC Automotive Awards Ceremony, to be

held at the Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert, at 7:00 p.m. in the lecture hall. Ron's fascination with automobiles began when he acquired his first car at age 15, a 1932 Ford "deuce coupe," a slang term derived from their year of manufacture. The song "Little Deuce Coupe," released by the Beach Boys in the summer of 1963, made this particular hot rod even more famous: "She's my little deuce coupe. You don't know what I got....She's got a competition clutch with the four on the floor, And she purrs like a kitten till the lake pipes roar ..."

Ron's first car inspired him to not just rebuild engines and refurbish cars, but to race. And race Ron did. From Mexico to Canada, he raced his jet cars—cars in which he'd installed actual jet engines. He retired from racing last year, but is still going strong as a custom engine builder. In his shop, Ron's Engines at the corner of Weatherford and Michigan, he does diagnostics, body and engine repair, restoration, and all manner of custom work for his clients, who come from as far as Presidio. Right now, he's working on an engine—his 126th custom job since 1996—in which he's taking a Z06 Corvette engine and customizing it for installation in a '69 Camaro. Ron says it will become a "very fast street car," proving that at 68, Ron VanMeter's motor is running strong, and ... *you don't know what he's got.*

**MC Automotive Awards Ceremony**  
Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
MC's Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert  
see "briefly" section below for details



Ron VanMeter at his shop, Ron's Engines, with the Z06 Corvette engine he will install in the '69 Camaro, at back

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## GED ceremony honors graduates and U.S. citizens

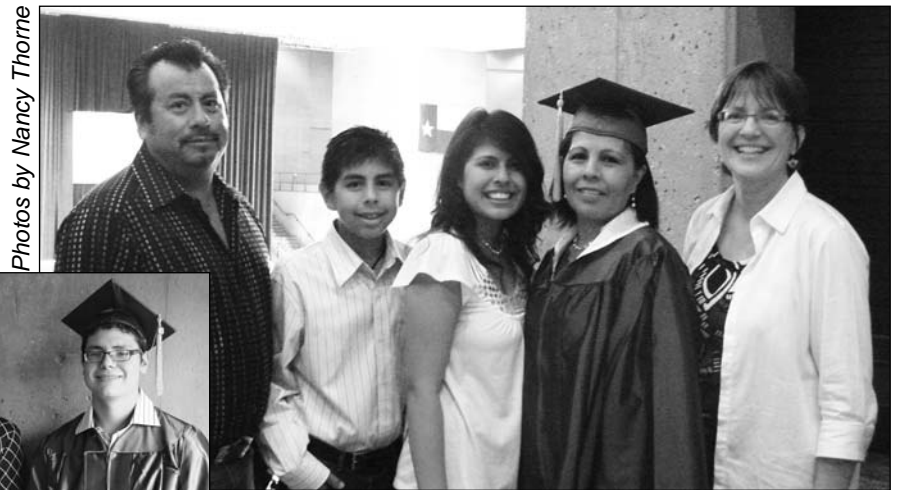
"This is not the end of the road. Really, it's just the beginning and we encourage you to continue your education, to keep learning, to keep growing," said MC President Dr. Steve Thomas in his welcoming remarks at the GED Graduation Exercises on May 14.

This is just the beginning for GED graduate Hermenegilda Campa (pictured at right with her family), mother of two, who has been employed in housekeeping services at Midland Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Campa has also been taking courses to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and now that she has her GED, she is eligible to become a full-time CNA upon successful completion of the CNA exam on May 28.

This is just the beginning for the other 84 graduates who received their GEDs that same night, five of whom were recognized as new inductees to the National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS): Joshua Cranfill (pictured at right), Diana Lowe, Sandra Montañez, Scott Petch and Maricela Sanchez. To be eligible for nomination and membership to the NAEHS, a student must have demonstrated strong attendance, a cooperative attitude toward others and self-reliance by personal initiative. Less than

five percent of all adult education students receive NAEHS recognition.

Also honored were new U.S. citizens who recently completed an eight-week class led by Juan Martinez. The class emphasizes basic U.S. history and government. The following individuals passed the required test of English and civics to become U.S. citizens: Maria Alcalá, Maria Amaya, Elsa Castillo, Maria Contreras, Anita Cordova, Baldemar Duarte, Edgar Escobar, Vicente Galvan, July Lin Hajar, Klimantine Khamis, Ameen Lujan, Elizabeth Montes, Hilda Natividad, Librado Porras, Gabriela Prieto, Aida Prieto, Maria Lourdes Rodriguez, Guillermo Torres and Ana Vargas.



GED graduate Hermenegilda Campa, second from right, with her family, from left, Martin, Martin, Jr. and Alma Campa with Cogdell Learning Center Director and GED Instructor Liz Zenteno



GED graduate and NAEHS inductee Joshua Cranfill with MC Dean of Adult Basic Education Lynda Webb



From left, Midland Need to Read and ESL Instructor Peggy Wennerlind, GED Instructor Carol Hill and TEEN Challenge GED Coordinator Michael Parrott

briefly

### Veterinary Technology to host orientation for interested students

Students interested in the Veterinary Technology program are invited to a new student orientation from 9:00 a.m. - noon on Monday, June 1 in room TC-186 of the Technical Center Annex. Lunch will be provided for those attending. Please RSVP to Vet Tech Program Director Dr. Kerry Coombs (432) 685-4619 or (432) 685-6413. They can also e-mail him at kcoombs@midland.edu for more information.

### Bond Construction Update

**Scharbauer Student Center:** The steel roof deck is being placed and interior partition studs are being erected. The interior remodel is proceeding as scheduled.

**Physical Education Building:** The interior partition studs have been erected and the exterior wall block for the new gymnasium is being laid.

**F. Marie Hall Academic Building:** Safety handrails at the drainage crossings are now being constructed. Minor landscaping items remain. Coffee bar and patio lounge are open.

### MC's Automotive Program to host awards ceremony

Several MC Automotive students participated in, and many won awards, this past March at the SkillsUSA Texas Leadership and Skills Championships. SkillsUSA is a non-profit youth organization which facilitates Trade and Industry Education, enhances curriculum and involves all students. Students develop communication and teamwork skills and a competitive edge in the workforce. The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the lecture hall of the Advanced Technology Center, 3200 W. Cuthbert. Many other students will be honored with scholarships and "Top Technician Awards." Please call (432) 685-4676 for additional information.

### World of Wordcraft: A Journey to the Other Voices Inside

The goal of this course is to assist students with a passion for poetry and creative writing to write more! Students will be encouraged to create a new, more personal body of work. The course would end with a small reading of the works written during the workshop, and each student will be responsible for presenting a final chapbook at the end of the course. The course costs \$75 and will meet 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings from June 4 - July 16. To register, please visit us online at www.midland.edu/cpe/courses or call (432) 685-4518.



The new Scharbauer Student Center and right, the new gymnasium under construction for the Physical Education expansion



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Summer I registration ends May 27!

**Midland College**  
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Summer I classes begin May 28!

**REGISTER NOW for Summer I & II**

online through **Campus Connect** at [www.midland.edu](http://www.midland.edu) or in person.\*\*

\*\*Due to construction, Student Services has been moved to the Allison Fine Arts Building.

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Midland College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates and associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Midland College.

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