

Motley County

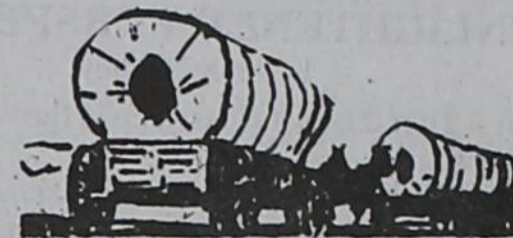
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Tribune

"VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS"



Thursday, July 24, 2003

ESTABLISHED 1891

Issue No. 30

Ranch Rodeo spurs new interest in Old Settlers

The 40th annual Motley-Dickens Counties Old Settlers Rodeo and Reunion, will feature local and regional teams competing at the Ranch Rodeo sponsored by Matador Cattle Company on August 29 and 30.

The ranch rodeo concept, not entirely new to the Roaring Springs arena, is generating a great deal of interest among cowboys and spectators alike and will replace the traditional amateur rodeo, which has evolved into a collegiate sport. Once again, local rodeo fans can cheer for local cowboys who will attempt tasks that were once part of everyday ranch life.

The lively events, including bronc riding, wild cow milking, team doctoring, calf branding,

team sorting, and double mugging, will start with introductions at 7 p.m. on Friday. Several area ranches will be represented, but many teams will be made up of cowboys who are friends, neighbors, or relatives. A total for sixteen teams, eight each night, will vie for monetary awards, prizes to event winners, and, more importantly, the year's bragging rights as top hands and the top teams.

A team will be composed of four to six members. The entry fee will be \$500 per team, with four monies paid in the average. Because of the expected interest, teams are asked to enter on August 1, from 7 to 10 p.m. by calling 806-348-7987 to register team members. The teams will

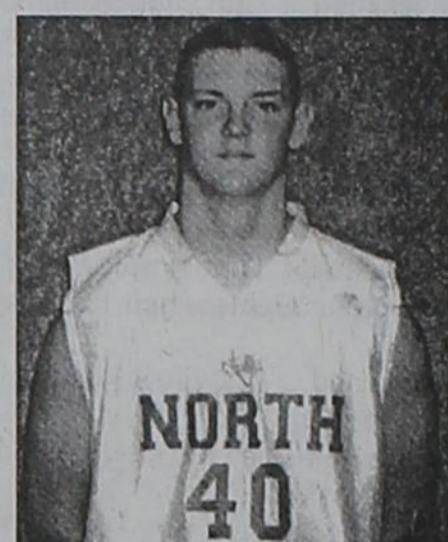
be registered on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Before Saturday night's competition, a kid's version of a ranch rodeo will provide entertainment beginning at 4:30 p.m. All wooden livestock will be provided by Pokey the Clown of Panhandle, Texas. Teams, with three age divisions of 3-7, 8-11,

and 12-16, will compete in the Pony Express Race, Steer Doctoring, Wild Cow Milking, and Calf Branding. The team with the most points will qualify for the Working Ranch Cowboy Assn.'s championship finals in Amarillo during November. Young cowgirls and cowboys may register for \$20 a team and

then practice with Pokey under the elm trees at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, call President Wayne Smith, Dickens, 806-623-5326; or Vice-President, Russell Alexander, Roaring Springs, 806-348-7958; or Secretary Marisue Potts, Matador, 806-787-0592.



Clint Cooper

Clint Cooper competes in All-Star Game

Clint Cooper, son of Jim and Judy Cooper of Matador, competed in the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association All-Star Basketball game, Friday, July 18, in Lubbock.

Athletes from six-man schools across Texas were divided into North, South, East and West regions for the basketball games, which were played in the Rip Griffin Center at Lubbock Christian University.

As an Honorable Mention All-State, 1st team All South Plains, and District MVP basketball player, Clint, a 2003 graduate of Motley County High School, was tabbed by the coaches in his district to represent the North squad, along with Reagan McClenny from Patton Springs. The North squad dominated the game, beating the South team by a score of 53-27.

The All-Star games are a highlight of the week long Texas Six-Man Coaches Association Coaching Clinic which is held each year in Lubbock.

MC Cheerleaders to sponsor Cheer Camp

The Motley County Varsity Cheerleaders will host a Mini-Cheer Camp, August 4th and 5th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school gym.

All girls, Pre-K through 6th grade are invited to come join the fun! There will be an entry fee of \$25 for each girl and they will need to bring a sack lunch.

For more information call Kay Bingham at 347-2817 or Mandi Ream at 347-2776.

Motley County Library receives bequest

The Motley County Library has received a bequest from the estate of Wynona Gilbreath. Mrs. Gilbreath stated in her will, "I give my residuary estate to the Matador Library in Matador, Motley County, Texas. This memorial shall be in memory of my parents, A.W. Ford and Ada Ford, and I direct that the Board of Directors of said library shall have complete discretion on the use of the funds of my residuary estate, my only wish is that they honor my parents with this bequest."

Mrs. Gilbreath's wishes will be followed and the Library Board of Directors will determine the type of honor for Mr. and Mrs. Ford at a later date.

Annual Chamber banquet set for August 16th

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met Tuesday, July 15, to finalize plans for the Annual Chamber Banquet, to be held on Saturday, August 16, in the High School Auditorium.

Since the inception of the Chamber, the annual banquet has been a highlight event in the life of Motley County. This year's ninth banquet is no exception - in fact, it may break all records! The "records" in this case are the good, old 78's of the 50's and 60's that we all enjoyed on juke boxes in the local drug store and on weekends at school "sock hops." The 2003 theme is "Nostalgia" and will feature the singing sensation from Ft. Worth, "Flashback." They will perform old favorites from the 50's and 60's and may even take requests from the audience.

The banquet event will also include a "Business Fair" including informational booths of local merchants, and lots of awards and prizes.

Nominations for this year's "Business of the Year" are

Calico Treasures/Decorator's Studio, New To You, Hitchin' Post, and Traveler's Inn. Nominations for "Man of the Year" go to Rodney Williams, Alex Crowder and Jerry Green. "Woman of the Year" nominations go to Judy Renfro, Dinah Young, and Frances Taylor.

Other business covered at Tuesday's meeting included a unanimous agreement to add Whiteflat, Flomot and Northfield to the Chamber "Welcome" signs, newly erected in three locations; updates on the Motley County Bucks program; and the sale of "2 Hepcats - playing some oldies" - a CD that has been produced by Pat Groves and features Gerald Pipkin on saxophone and Mike Groves on piano. The CD is for sale through the Chamber of Commerce, with all proceeds being donated to the Chamber.

Stay tuned for more information on Nostalgia, Flashback and ticket sales. Be sure to mark August 16 on your calendar.

Texas shoppers can stock up during annual Sales Tax Holiday

Shoppers can stock up on clothes and shoes without paying sales tax August 1-3, Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced today.

"I love the Sales Tax Holiday. It's the one time where hard-working Texas families get to keep more of their dollars in their pockets for their families' priorities. The fifth annual Sales Tax Holiday will be held the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August," Strayhorn said. "During the Sales Tax Holiday most clothes and shoes priced under \$100 are exempt from state and local sales taxes."

Strayhorn estimates Texans will save \$43.8 million in sales tax, including \$34.6 million in state sales tax and \$9.2 million in local sales taxes.

Examples of items that can be purchased tax-free August 1-3 include kids' clothes and school uniforms, adults' clothes and work uniforms, shoes, tennis shoes, sleepwear and underclothes for the entire family, as long as the items are priced under \$100 each.

Strayhorn has repeatedly

called on the Legislature to add backpacks, school supplies and safety gear for Texas children to the Tax Exempt list; they have failed to do so.

Items that cannot be purchased tax-free include handbags, wallets, jewelry, accessories, athletic shoes and sports apparel that are not normally street wear, backpacks and school supplies.

Since the first Sales Tax Holiday in 1999, the annual three-day event has saved Texans an estimated \$150.2 million in sales tax, including \$118.5 million in state sales tax and \$31.7 million in local sales tax.

"During these tough economic times, I believe Texas families will once again take full advantage of this well-deserved tax break to make their dollars go farther," Strayhorn said.

For more information about the Sales Tax Holiday, including a list of tax-exempt and non-exempt items, visit the Comptroller's Web site at http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx96_237_2_03html#holiday.

fund to finish the fiscal year. Court approved the transfer.

Douglas Campbell from TxDOT informed the Court that he was requested to have the RAP materials stacked on private property and not on the highway right of way. The Court requested him to find out how long the materials could be on the right of way if need be before they are hauled.

The County was requested to join in with Dickens County to share the expense of a Family and Consumer Science Agent from the State Extension Program. In addition to the Agent's salary the two counties were being requested to share travel expense that would no longer be paid by the State. This would cost the counties approximately \$1,000.00 to 1,500.00 a year. Commissioners voted to abolish the position.

Caprock Rural Transit District had requested the Court to approve a resolution affecting the Counties Cap Trans Service provided through the Caprock Community Action. Commissioners approved the resolution.

Judge Smith presented to the Court for their approval, two lists of Election Judges. Commissioners approved both lists.

The Court discussed the issue of the Teepee City cattleguard. After much discussion Commissioners voted to table the issue indefinitely pending further legal research and

conclusions.

Judge Smith informed the Court that the Department of Health Grant monies will be used to place computers in the Clinic and Sheriff's department. The computers will be linked to a lab in Sandia, NM and will provide health area network information in emergency situations. The computers can also be used for any other official purpose.

The second grant the County will receive is the State Homeland Security Program Sub-Grant for \$26,504. Motley County will receive half to be used for local programs and the other half will go to SPAG to help area communications.

The Court set aside July 17, July 31, and August 7 for Budget Work sessions for the upcoming calendar year.

Judge Smith informed the Court that there is a possibility that the 110th Judicial District may be expanded to include Crosby County. This would bring the district up to approximately a 20,000 population district wide.

The court was informed that the land has been acquired on which to build the Hackberry Creek Care Center. The Care Center board has requested \$3,500 from four entities including Motley County to fund the first phase of the operation. After discussion the request died for lack of a motion.

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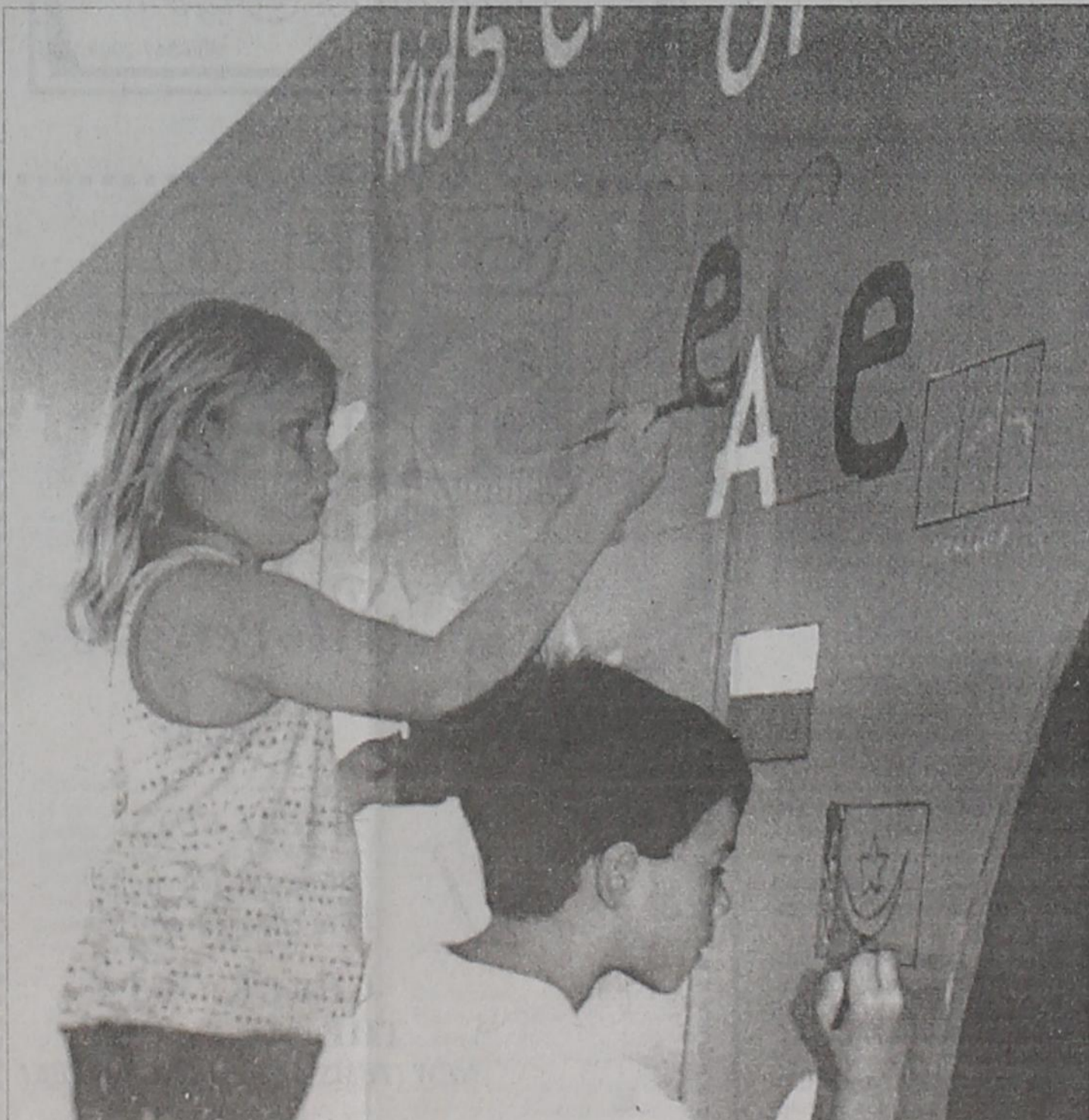
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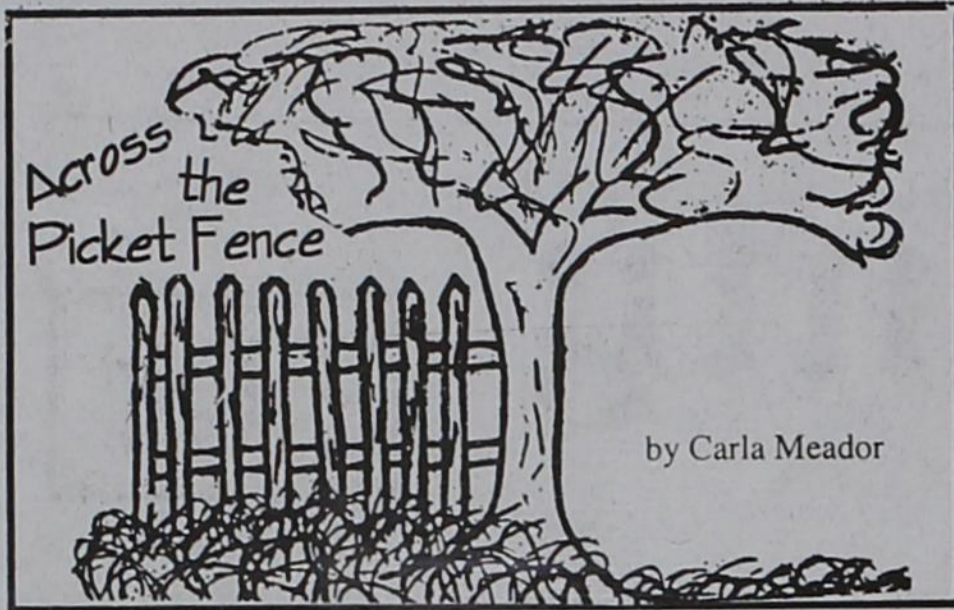
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KID'S CAMP FUN — Hanna Alexander and Jonothan Osborn work on a wall mural at a previous Kid's Camp. The annual event, sponsored by the Roaring Springs Community Volunteers, will get underway Monday, July 28 and continue through August 1 at the Community Center in Roaring Springs. The camp is for all children, ages 6 - 11, and will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. Those needing more information should contact Alex Crowder at 348-7336.



ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVE
by Andy Rooney

I've learned ... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
I've learned ... That when you're in love, it shows.
I've learned ... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" - makes my day.
I've learned ... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
I've learned ... That being kind is more important than being right.
I've learned ... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
I've learned ... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
I've learned ... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
I've learned ... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
I've learned ... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
I've learned ... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
I've learned ... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
I've learned ... That money doesn't buy class.
I've learned ... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
I've learned ... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
I've learned ... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
I've learned ... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
I've learned ... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
I've learned ... That love, not time, heals all wounds.
I've learned ... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
I've learned ... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
I've learned ... That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.
I've learned ... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
I've learned ... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
I've learned ... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
I've learned ... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
I've learned ... That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.
I've learned ... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them!
I've learned ... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
I've learned ... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
I've learned ... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
I've learned ... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
I've learned ... That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.
I've learned ... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

....."I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:3 (NIV)

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Does The Devil Have A Foothold In Your Life?



I acquired an article from an elder of the church several years ago that was simply signed, "Copied." I wish I knew who "Brother Copied" really was, because I would love to give him credit for three simple but yet profound observations. He was writing about how the Devil gets a foothold in the life of the

Christian. Let me encourage you to read I Peter 5:8, and the points become even more powerful. Well, what does the devil do to entrap us?

1. He gets us interested in other things.
2. He gets us bored with our religion.
3. He gets us to start missing services.

I wondered as I read the article, how many of us may be in different stages of this process? Have you been increasingly absorbed with other interests in your life? Is your work interfering with the Lord's cause and hindering your spiritual growth? Are weekly treks to the lake or out of town to visit with friends or relatives keeping you away from worship? Does workday stress make you long to sleep in on Sunday morning instead of getting up and coming to the assembly?

Neglect is a gradual process! Unfaithfulness doesn't happen overnight. First we start missing Wednesday nights, then Sunday nights, then occasionally on Sunday morning, then we are absent more than we are present at all the services and little by little, our spirituality dies.

Don't deceive yourself. "God is not mocked," and whatever you are sowing in your life is exactly what you will reap. Think about it very carefully!

Roaring Springs Church of Christ
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.
BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP, 9:00 A.M.



Arts & Crafts

by Winifred Darsey

The Summer season is going well for Motley County Arts & Crafts Club. The June meeting on the art form of painting greeting cards was taught by Lorene Lancaster and Dorothy Knight. There were beautiful paintings of flowers. The members chose various colors. It was an enjoyable class and these will be on sale at our Fall Bazaar.

The July meeting was held July 7 at the Senior Citizens center. President Loys Campbell called the business meeting at 10:00. The election of officers was held and the club retained the same officers for another year.

Joyce Meredith taught the workshop on constructing bird houses from plastic bottles. It was a delightful class and amazing how whimsical and fantastic these were. They were painted many colors, with flowers on the sides or any design

of choice. These will be on sale at the Fall Bazaar also. The Bazaar will be held November 15.

Members dined with the Seniors for both meetings. The food was delicious and the fun, as usual, very good.

Members present were Joy Archer, Jo Trammel, Lorene Lancaster, Dorothy Knight, Vee Gordon, Loys Campbell, Nova Dale Turner, Elizabeth Evova, Dorothy Day and Winifred Darsey for the June meeting.

The club enjoyed a guest, Miss Angelica Meredith, for the July meeting. Members present were Joy Archer, Loys Campbell, Vee Gordon, Nova Dale Turner, Dorothy Knight, Joyce Meredith, Grace Garrison, Lorene Lancaster and Winifred Darsey.

The August meeting will be held on the 4th. Members will paint on old treasures. See you there!

Pivots & Divots

by Mary

RSRC ladies playday on July 17 was for longest drive on #7. Playing 18 holes were Geneva, Jeannie, Liv and Louise. Liv won. Playing 9 holes were Frances, Judy C., Judy R., Marihelen, Mary and Tempie. Frances won.

Tuesday scramble, July 15th, had only 12 players. Winning first, with a score of 30, were Alan Bingham, Corky Marshall and Geneva Wilson.

Winning second, with a score of 30, were Robert Osborn, Olivia Osborn and Roncho Grundy. Winning third, with a score of 30,

were Ken Marshall, Stan Hanesworth and Louise Barton. Others playing were Gene Brannon, Dot Grundy and Kelly Keltz. No one got on #6 green so the closest to the pin money will be carried over to next week.

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Library Notes
by Suzanne Abbott, Librarian

The library received the donation of a book from author Karla Cox Smith this week. This book is the genealogy of the Bartons and is titled The Family of Wilson Barton and Mildah McKinney. This book traces the Motley County Bartons back to Wilson and Mildah Barton through Decatur and Susan Catherine Barton to Alfred Hightower Barton and his wives Mary Moreland, Mollie Sams, and Addie Seay. Many photographs are featured in the book. When the Motley County Library reopens, we will place this Barton book in the genealogy section. If anyone in the Barton family would like a copy, you may write to Karla Cox Smith and send her a check for \$20.00, which includes the book, sales tax and postage. Her address is 406 South Ridge Circle, Georgetown, TX 78628.

The old carpet has been removed from the library and hopefully, the new carpet will be put down this week. It really looks vacant in the building and when you talk, you hear an echo. I'll be glad when everything is back together.

I'll leave you with this poem by Janice James:

I've traveled the world twice over,
Met the famous: saints and sinners,
Poets and artists, kings and queens,
Old Stars and hopeful beginners,
I've been where no-one's been before,
Learned secrets from writers and cooks
All with one library ticket
To the wonderful world of books.

Sonbeams
by June Keltz

His mother had a major decision to make. Within her womb was a living being, too precious to abort, too costly to keep. Adoption seemed to be the only love option.

In another town miles away, a young couple's desire for a second child was creating an emotional unrest in their, otherwise, happy marriage. After extensive prayer and medical advice they began a search for that special child who needed the kind of love they could give. The phone call soon came describing a new born cotton headed baby boy with a rash. The excited couple would take him, rash and all.

At two "Jim" was lively in his diaper, crushed straw cowboy hat, boots and a stick horse that he rode with the vigor and determination of a world champion bronc rider.

At five his enterprising blood began to boil as he displayed a roadside lemonade stand including his original handcrafted unidentifiable objects made from crumpled paper.

His sixth grade school year offered an opportunity to show himself as a sports hero. Football was a dream come true if he could only make the team. He was told his weight and slight build would make that dream an impossibility. They didn't know "Jim." He was fast, tough and had no fear of the seventh and eighth grade giants. To the amazement of all, he made the team with cuts and bruises all over his thin body to display as a trophy of his success.

About his twelfth year ADHD was taking its toll on his school work. He despised the way Retalin attempted to turn him into an inactive zombie and he made the choice to discontinue the medication.

Meanwhile, the school bullies learned that he was adopted and began to mock him, calling

him the "B" word and saying "You don't have a mother and daddy like we do." Because he had a sweet, gentle, loving spirit it quickly and easily broke. In spite of his adopted parents' assurance and the counselor's best efforts, he became a school drop-out. With all self esteem gone he chose friends who believed life was over for them also. From his grandfather's funeral "Jim" disappeared for eight or nine weeks. His parents, along with the police, searched endlessly, finally finding him not many miles away.

Boy's Ranch seemed to hold the answer to his emotional needs but twice he fled for his life, as, once again, bullies threatened him. There seemed to be no answer. Soon "Jim" became lost in the multitude of children of today's society born to biological parents with drug and alcohol addictions. Bullies are drawn to those who are suffering rejection and no one seems to hear their cry.

Several weeks ago in another city, "Jim" and two of his dysfunctional friends robbed a woman. He is now in the county jail of that city awaiting trial. He has begged forgiveness from God and his parents, showed remorse and expressed love for them.

While this is a hideous crime that must be punished we must remember that no one is exempt from temptation to sin. The bully of this world attempts everyday to defeat us by trying to convince us that God doesn't love us. We are emotionally handicapped if we do not know that we are loved, accepted and respected. We, as Gentiles, were also adopted into God's Kingdom, not by our righteous deeds but by the shed blood of His sinless Son.

Please pray for this seventeen year old who might, except for the grace of God, be your son or grandson.

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Dinah Elliott-Young



Motley County FFA members, Cody and Clay Cooper recently attended the Leadership Conference.

FFA members attend Leadership Conference

Two members of the Motley County FFA Chapter attended the Area I FFA Association Leadership conference held at Clarendon College June 16-18. Cody Cooper and Clay Cooper, sons of Jim and Judy Cooper of Matador, attended the conference along with over 150 other FFA members from the Panhandle of Texas region. The conference is designed to reinforce leadership, speaking, cooperation, and citizenship

skills that are taught at the local level. Students take part in sessions led by District, Area, and State FFA officers that strive to help them become better leaders in their FFA chapter and in their school and community. In addition to classroom sessions, the students take part in recreational activities, a nightly dance, and a formal dinner where each chapter and its representatives are recognized.

Girl Scout Leadership Training Symposium to be held August 1-3

The Girl Scouts of Caprock Council invite area girls to participate in a Leadership Training Symposium August 1-3 at Camp Rio Blanco in Crosbyton, Texas. This opportunity is open to Girl Scouts, as well as girls who are not currently members. During this exciting weekend, girls will make new friends, practice skills, expand abilities and develop leadership skills. Participants can choose from the Program Aide Core Course or the Leader-in-Training Course.

The Girl Scout Program Aide (PA) is the most basic of the five leadership opportunities. As a PA, Girl Scouts become proficient in an area of interest and develop leadership skills by sharing their specialized knowledge with younger girls in a troop or group setting. All girls who have completed the sixth grade are eligible. The Leader-in-Training (LIT) project was created so that Girl Scouts could acquire the skills and confidence necessary to guide a group of younger girls and hold future leadership positions within and outside of Girl Scouting. Becoming a leader takes practice, patience, motivation and a sense of humor. Girls enrolled in the LIT program will learn these skills and much more. Any girl who has completed the ninth grade is eligible to attend. Girls can sign up for individual courses, or plan to stay at Camp Rio Blanco for the entire weekend. If the weekend option is chosen, three meals Saturday and two meals Sunday will be provided. Four special-

ization courses are being offered: games, songs, crafts and water games. Cost to attend either the Program Aide or Leader-in-Training program is \$25, or \$30 to spend the entire weekend. Non Girl Scouts must pay an additional charge of \$7 to register with Girl Scouts of the USA. Financial assistance is available. Deadline to register is July 17, 2003.

Large crowd attends annual SPEC membership meeting

Spur, Texas -- A crowd of nearly 500 waited patiently as names were drawn for more than 30 door prizes. The grand prize of a 32" Zenith television was saved for last when, to his surprise, Jimmy Arnold of Spur heard his name called. This was one part of the annual South Plains Electric Cooperative (SPEC) Dickens Division Membership Meeting held Thursday, July 17 at the local SPEC office in Spur. Cooperative members and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner, entertainment and informational meeting, along with the door prizes.

SPEC President Tommy Joines and General Manager James Driver highlighted events and activities over the past year. "One of the things I'm most proud of is the group of employees you have right here at this location to serve you," said Driver. "If you have a need these people will take care of you."

Two local students received an Operation Round-Up Scholarship this year. Tabitha

Benningfield of Jayton and Kelly Gannon of Jayton were among 21 students each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship award for the 2003-2004 school year. They were introduced by Operation Round-Up Director Jean Sonnemaker.

Five Dickens Division employees, representing a total of 95 years of service, received awards at the informational meeting. Eusebio Lopez earned his 5-year service award. Freddy Gonzalez received his 15-year service award. Lee Kidd was honored for 20 years of service. Larry Taylor received a 25-year service award and Jay Lyle Thomason was recognized for 30 years of service. Laythen Adams, 5-year-old, helped draw door prize winners. He is the son of Heath and Mitzi Adams of Dickens.

Danny's Fins and Hens of Lubbock catered the dinner and Mike Porter of Dickens entertained members while they ate. South Plains Electric Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, serves nearly 42,000 connected meters in



Five Dickens Division employees were honored for a combined total of 95 years of service for the cooperative membership. They are, from left to right, Eusebio Lopez, 5 years; Freddy Gonzalez, 15 years; Lee Kidd, 20 years; Larry Taylor, 25 years; and Jay Lyle Thomason, 30 years.

Childress, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Hale, Hall, Hardeman, Hockley, Kent, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley and Stonewall counties. When you see Touchstone Energy, you know this is a locally owned, community-minded, electric cooperative providing high standards of service for all members.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
SPECIAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 68, Section 1)

HJR 68, Section 1 would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the Veterans' Land and Veterans' Housing Assistance funds for payment of revenue bonds, and use excess assets in those funds to provide veterans homes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 51)

HJR 51 would expand from six months to two years the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that was sold for unpaid property taxes may buy back the mineral interest.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 55)

HJR 55 would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation land owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that will be used to expand or construct a place of religious worship that yields no revenue.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 30)

SJR 30 would authorize the legislature to allow conservation and reclamation districts to use taxes to develop and finance certain parks and recreation facilities. Also, the amendment would authorize the legislature to allow local elections for the issuance of bonds to improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities in the Tarrant Regional Water District or a conservation and reclamation district located in whole or in part in Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller or Williamson County.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 25)

SJR 25 would authorize the legislature to exempt from all property taxes certain tangible personal property, which could include a travel trailer not substantially affixed to real estate and not used as a residential dwelling.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 23)

HJR 23 would authorize a qualified homeowner to refinance a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 44)

HJR 44 would reduce the number of persons who make up the jury in a district court criminal misdemeanor case from twelve to six.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial."

PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 62)

HJR 62 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies to state and local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 18 applies only to local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 68, Section 2)

HJR 68, Section 2 would redefine the com-

position of the permanent and available school funds by requiring during the next two fiscal years, and authorizing thereafter, annual distributions to the available school fund of a percentage of any increase in the value of the permanent school fund's total investment assets.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund."

PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 61)

HJR 61 would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would be authorized to distribute based on need the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."

PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 85)

HJR 85 would authorize the legislature to regulate the operation of wineries in Texas, regardless of whether a winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has been authorized by local option election.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state."

PROPOSITION 12 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 would immediately authorize the Legislature to limit non-economic damages assessed against a provider of medical or health care and, after January 1, 2005, to limit awards in all other types of cases.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages."

PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 16)

HJR 16 would authorize a county, city, town, and junior college district to freeze property taxes on a residential homestead of a person who is disabled or aged 65 or older.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses."

PROPOSITION 14 (HJR 28)

HJR 28 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to issue

notes or borrow money to fund highway improvement projects. The terms of the notes or loans may not exceed two years. The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund."

PROPOSITION 15 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would prohibit a local retirement system and the political subdivision that finances the retirement system from reducing or otherwise impairing certain accrued benefits under the local retirement system.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The Constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired."

PROPOSITION 16 (SJR 42)

SJR 42 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow home equity lines of credit and allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans."

PROPOSITION 17 (HJR 21)

HJR 21 would prohibit an increase in school property taxes on residence homesteads of disabled persons.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person."

PROPOSITION 18 (HJR 59)

HJR 59 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies only to local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 8 applies to state and local political subdivisions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 19 (SJR 45)

SJR 45 would repeal the legislature's

authority to create rural fire prevention districts. Effective September 1, 2003, all existing rural fire prevention districts will convert to emergency services districts.

PROPOSITION 20 (SJR 55)

SJR 55 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in a total amount not to exceed \$250 million that will be used to provide loans for economic development projects that benefit defense-related communities in Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations."

PROPOSITION 21 (SJR 19)

SJR 19 would authorize current and retired faculty members of a public institution of higher education to receive compensation for service as a member of the governing body of a water district.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district."

PROPOSITION 22 (HJR 84)

HJR 84 would authorize the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to serve on behalf of a state, district, or local public officer who is called into active military duty for longer than 30 days.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 13 de septiembre de 2003. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis llamando al 1/800/252/8683 o escribiendo al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

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News Around the County

Roaring Springs News

By Lula Swim

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peacock, accompanied by Mrs. Pat Peacock of Lubbock attended the funeral of James T. Brown, a cousin of Lea Peacock in DeLeon Tuesday. They spent the night in Stephenville with Mrs. Ken Brown and drove to Lubbock Wednesday for Mr. Peacock's doctor appointment and came home Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Sargent of Lubbock visited his mother, Mrs. Mary Lumsden, on Monday.

Miss Lula Swim kept a doctor's appointment in Plainview and Floydada on Monday.

FORMER RESIDENT & WIFE CELEBRATE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Grady A. and Alice R. Glenn of Odessa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 28 with a reception at Mission Dorado Baptist Church. The event was hosted by their daughters.

Mr. Glenn, a former Roaring Springs resident, and Effie Alice Rowan were married June 28, 1953, at College Avenue Baptist Church

in Lubbock with the Rev. Abe Hester Jr. officiating.

The couple has three children: Patti Jan Glenn Bentley of Milburn, Oklahoma, Kay Rita Glenn Jarrell and Risa Ann Glenn Craig, both of Odessa. They have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Glenn retired in 1991 from Continental General Tire after more than 34 years of service. Alice Glenn taught home economics in Muleshoe and Cooper High School in Woodrow and is a homemaker.

Joyce Meredith enjoyed a picnic with her grandchildren at the Roaring Springs Ranch, Saturday. After swimming and exploring, everyone enjoyed lunch under the shade trees. Those enjoying the day with Mrs. Meredith, were daughter Carla Meador of Matador, with grandchildren Morgan and Judson Jones of Lubbock; daughter-in-law Daphne Meredith; and grandchildren, Parker, Jonah and Angelica Meredith, and friend Connor Mason of Matador.

Matador News

John M. "Sonny" Russell had gallbladder surgery Monday at the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Mrs. Eunice McFall of Quitaque, former Motley County resident, had colon surgery Thursday, July 10th at the Covenant Medical Center in Plainview. She is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Wilda and Spencer Dixon met

her mother, Mrs. Ted Hester and brother and daughter, Carl Hester and Kristen of Lovington, N.M. in Lubbock, Thursday. They were guests of Mrs. Adina Bush at the Senior Citizens luncheon held at the South Crest Baptist Church. Kristen was the guest performer singing special musical numbers.

At newstime, James "Tootie" Meador is a patient at the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

If Governor Perry keeps calling for special sessions for the same bill to be passed, it's not special, it is drudgery and costly!

FAREWELL PARTY

Hosting a cookout supper Saturday night as a fond farewell for Dustin Calvert Reed of Lubbock were his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Calvert and uncle, Glen Calvert. Dustin has enlisted in the U.S. Marines.

Those attending were Dustin's family, Gwen, Tim and Peyton Mandrell of Lubbock; Sherrilyn and Dan Foster of Lubbock, George, Kay and Donnie Calvert of Quitaque; Mrs. Wanda Calvert of Turkey and daughter, Mrs. Christy Withers of Midland; Alvia Joe Calvert of Dumas and Ruth and Orville Lee and Mary Ellen Barton of Flomot.

MERRELL FAMILY REUNION

The descendants of the Alex Merrell family held their annual reunion at the Merrell homestead in the Gray Mule Community Saturday, July 19th. The Merrell family settled here in 1889. To the surprise of everyone, and Indian in his colorful attire made a rousing appearance on horseback. It was the son of Jake Merrell, Jerry Merrell of Midland. The chuck wagon was rolled out and served delicious food including roast beef. Over 125 relatives enjoyed the reunion from Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

DERRICK CRUSE ON TEXAS ALL STAR TEAM

Derrick Cruse was an outstanding player at the Texas Six-Man All Star Football game held Saturday night in Lubbock at Lowrey Field. Derrick made 134 yards in 18 carries, 13 receiving yards and crossed the goal line for two touchdowns. Coach Taylor of the Valley Schools guided the west team to a 36-28 victory.

At the conclusion of the game, Derrick was awarded a \$1000 scholarship. Attending the game were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse of Flomot and grandmothers, Mrs. Marihelen Wason of Matador and Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse of Flomot and sister, Leah Cruse of Lubbock.

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Danielle Gwinn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, celebrated her ninth birthday Friday night and Saturday at the Roaring Springs Ranch. Those enjoying a cookout and slumber party Friday night were Bailey Denison of Spur, Seirra Burleson, Kourtnei Carnes and Khaki Scrivner of Turkey and Katie Fuston of Quitaque.

Saturday, other guests enjoying hot dogs, decorated birthday cake, ice cream and soft drinks at the swimming pool were grandmother, Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse of Flomot, Keri House of Smyer, Mrs. Bonnie Fullingim of Harlingen and James Gwinn and Fannin.

Truman "Tubb" Merrell is a patient in the Veteran's Hospital in Amarillo for cardiac treatment and tests.

Cara Franks of Canyon visited during the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks. Coy enjoyed the Motorsport Drag Races



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OBITUARIES

Madge Nichols Renfro

Graveside rites for Madge Nichols Renfro, 85, of Carrollton, were held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, July 18, at East Mound Cemetery at Matador. Officiating was Rev. Jack Boggs, pastor of First Baptist Church of Matador and Roaring Springs. Arrangements were under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador.

Mrs. Renfro died Tuesday, July 15, at Wichita Falls. She grew up in Motley County and was married to Robert Harold Renfro, Sr., December 9, 1942, at Seattle, Washington. She lived in Plainview for many years, and later in Houston and in Carrollton.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, and a son, Dr. Robert H. Renfro, Jr.

Survivors include three sons, Curtis and wife, Carmella, of Goose Creek, NC, David and wife Paulett of LaGrange, and Melvin of Carrollton; one daughter, Rebecca LaFleur and husband, Walter, of Silver City, NM; one sister, Rita Groves of Roaring Springs; two brothers, Jack Nichols of Pampa and C.M. Nichols of Quanah; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family has suggested memorials to the Motley County Library, for "Large Print Edition Books," or to East Mound Cemetery Association.

Herman M. Nix

Graveside services for Herman M. Nix, 83, of Kermit, were held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 22 at the Kermit Cemetery. He died July 19 at Deerings Nursing Home.

He was born in Aubrey, Texas, July 12, 1920. He married Maurine Justus, October 25, 1944, in Aubrey. She preceded him in death in 1984. He was a Retired Pumper from Amaco Oil Co. He was a Baptist and

a Mason and a 47-year resident of Kermit.

He is survived by two daughters, Patricia Ann Armstrong of Kermit and Marion Francene Campbell of Lubbock; two brothers, Don Nix of Teague and Alvin Nix of Tecumseh, OK; six grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Manuel Dean Young

Services for Manuel Dean Young were held Monday, July 14, at 10 a.m. at Sanders Memorial Chapel with burial in Afton Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Services were under the direction of Elder George Johnson, pastor of Lubbock Primitive Baptist Church.

Manuel passed away Saturday, July 12, 2003, in Covenant Hospital after a long illness. Manuel was born and reared in Afton, Dickens County, Texas, and was a graduate of Patton Springs High School. He married Tommie Kaye Rinn on Feb. 20, 1971. He retired this year after a long career as Senior Technical Specialist with CHR Solutions and Western Electric Company.

During his career he traveled extensively, especially in the Far East, designing and installing telephone systems. He is survived by his wife; two sons, Christopher of the home, and Randy and wife Joyce of Lubbock; one grandson, Clayton Walker Young of Abilene; his mother and stepfather, Shirley and Carl Barton of Roaring Springs; mother-in-law, Sybil H. Prickett; three sisters, Chloe Ne! Anderson of Lub-



Manuel Young

bock, Barbara Winkler of Los Lunas, N.M., and Linda Walton of Snyder, and one brother, H.L. "Bill" Young of Burton.

Manuel had a love and compassion for his many family and friends. His warm smile and compassionate heart will be missed. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory to Joe Arrington Cancer Center, 4101 22nd Place, Lubbock, Texas 79410.

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY!

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN A WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. 10260-001

APPLICATION. City of Roaring Springs, P.O. Box 247, Roaring Springs, Texas 79256-0247, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend wastewater disposal Permit No. 10260-001 to authorize an increase in the disposal of treated wastewater to a volume not to exceed a daily average of 50,000 gallons per day via evaporation and the addition of 22 acres of land for irrigation. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located adjacent to the east side of State Highway 70, approximately 500 feet south of the SLSFT Railroad tracks and approximately 3600 feet north of the intersection of State Highway 70 and Farm-to-Market Road 684 in Motley County, Texas. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on June 4, 2003. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Roaring Springs City Hall, 209 Broadway Street, Roaring Springs, Texas.

The TCEQ executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After completion of the technical review, the TCEQ will issue a Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments or requests for public meeting must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. After technical review of the application is complete, the executive director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list or the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the final deadline for submitting public comments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the executive director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Roaring Springs at the address stated above or by calling Robert Osborn at (806) 348-7231.

Issued: July 18, 2003.

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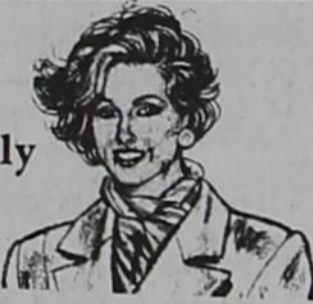
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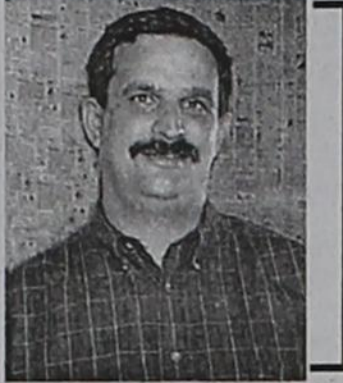
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FARM & RANCH NEWS

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORT

by Lonnie Jenschke
Motley County Extension Agent



MORE TENDER BEEF THANKS TO VITAMIN D
Increased vitamin D intake before slaughter can make beef more tender. This vitamin D tenderizing method is currently being tested by the USDA across the United States. Vitamin D3 helps promote strong bones and teeth. In tested cattle, blood calcium was increased 20-30 percent by feeding them extra D3 two to three days before slaughter. Elevated levels of calcium activate muscle enzymes that can help degrade structural proteins which toughen meat. Adding D3 in small amounts does not affect either livestock, or consumer health.

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR JULY & AUGUST

By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of 1/3 to 1/2 pounds per 100 square feet of bed area and water thoroughly.
Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Hollies will frequently drop their fruit under drought conditions.
Prune dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning from now until mid-winter. Severe pruning now will only stimulate tender new growth prior to frost.
In August, sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other winter flow-

ers in flats for planting outside in mid-to late fall.

It's time to divide spring flowering plants such as irises, Shasta daisies, ox-eye daisies, gaillardias, cannas, daylilies, violets, liriopes, and ajugas.

Plant bluebonnet seeds in August. This winter annual must germinate in late summer or early fall, develop a good root system, and be ready to grow in spring when the weather warms. Plant the seeds in well prepared soil, 1/2 inch deep, and water thoroughly.
Make your selections and place your orders for spring flowering bulbs to arrive in time for planting in October and November.

Mid-summer pruning of rose bushes can be beneficial. Prune out dead canes and any weak, brushy-type growth. Cut back tall, vigorous bushes to about 30 inches. After pruning, apply a complete fertilizer, and water thoroughly. If a preventive disease-control program has been maintained, your rose bushes should be ready to provide an excellent crop of flowers this fall.
Establish a new compost pile for the fall leaf accumulation.

Picking flowers frequently encourages most annuals and perennials to flower even more abundantly.

It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, and periwinkles. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks but should provide color during late September, October, and November.

USDA accepting applications for Grassland Reserve Program

Financial assistance for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is now available to eligible landowners. GRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administer the program, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. Funding for the GRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

According to Dr. Larry D. Butler, NRCS State Conservationist, "This voluntary program helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion to other land uses."

To participate in GRP, offers must be private land that includes at least 40 contiguous acres. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to conduct

common grazing practices; produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production (subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of bird species that are in significant decline or those that are protected under Federal or State law); conduct fire rehabilitation; and construct firebreaks and fences.

Applications for participation will be accepted on a continuous basis with the local office of NRCS or FSA. For the current funding cycle, an application must be received by August 1, 2003. All applications received by that date will be ranked on specific selection criteria to ensure only the highest priority areas (lands) are protected. Once funding has been exhausted, eligible applications will remain on file until additional funding becomes available. Applications accepted after August 1, 2003, will be held for ranking during the next funding cycle.

For more information about GRP, contact your local NRCS field office at the Motley County Service Center or call 347-2263, ext. 3. Additional information is also available on the agency Website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill>

Cotton News

from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

PCG APPROVES FY 03-04 OPERATING BUDGET

Members of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., Board of Directors came together Wednesday, July 16 for the organization's first meeting of the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Topping the agenda for the PCG Directors was approval of an operating budget for the organization through the next budget cycle.

In other business, the PCG Board discussed the status of the current special legislative session being conducted in Austin to work on the Congressional redistricting issue. Brandon Lipps, special assistant to Lubbock Senator Robert Duncan, Chair of the Texas Senate's Jurisprudence Committee, reported on the status of the debate in the Senate and the House.

PCG Board members unanimously approved a resolution opposing any change to current Congressional boundaries.

In other business, the PCG Board elected members to the 2003-2004 Nominating Committee and heard reports on the status of the implementation effort for the 2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program. They also identified additional issues for PCG to work on over the next 6-12 months.

Among the items the Board expressed interest in were cottonseed and technology pricing, herbicide performance, trade, assisting in development of a risk management product for cotton gins, cotton trading rules, and development of a pilot program for a Cost of Production insurance product.

The PCG Board also authorized Mark Williams to act as the PCG's representative at the upcoming Cotton Incorporated/Cotton Board caucuses in Corpus Christi, July 31.

The caucus meeting coincides with meetings of the Texas Cotton Producers (TCP) organization and the American Cotton Producers (ACP). The ACP is the cotton producer arm of the National Cotton Council and is led by current PCG President Mark Williams. TCP is comprised of the nine regional cotton producer organizations within Texas.

One of the PCG's important industry activities is the identi-

fication and promotion of cotton producers who are interested in filling leadership positions within the cotton industry. The Cotton Incorporated/Cotton Board caucus is the culmination of those activities.

PCG SEEKS COUNTY DISASTER DECLARATIONS

In an effort to get emergency and disaster assistance programs flowing to hard hit High Plains counties, Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers recently sent letters to County Judges in each of the 25 counties served by the organization.

Included with the PCG letter were estimates of 2003 cotton acreage losses and potential economic losses.

Using 5-year average production figures, PCG estimated some 1.1 million acres lost through the end of June with a potential farm level economic impact of some \$321 million.

Because of the widespread nature of the losses, three areas of concern prompted the PCG communication.

The first was to communicate the degree to which the area's cotton production had been impacted by weather events during the month of June.

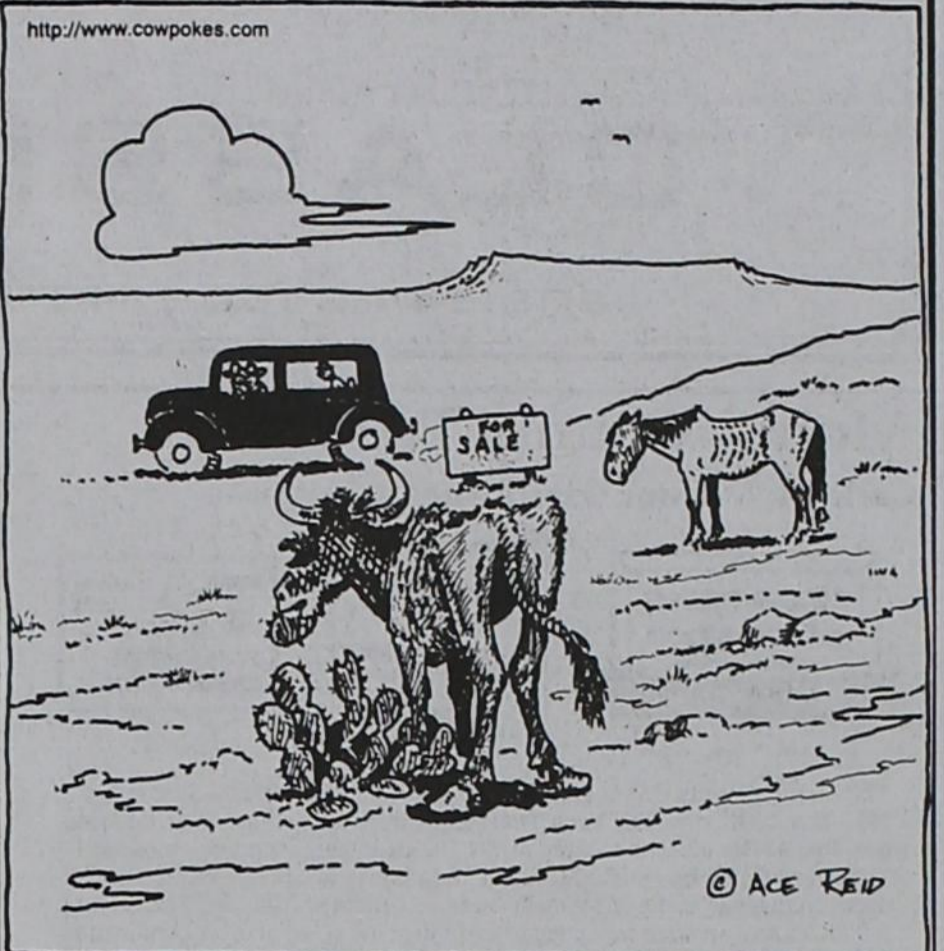
The second was to ensure each High Plains county that is eligible to receive a disaster declaration does so to make sure the full breadth of government programs triggered by such declarations are available to producers and adversely impacted local businesses.

Third reason PCG is encouraging separate disaster declarations for each county stems from the recent Congressional debate authorizing the 2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program.

The authorizing legislation for the 2001-2002 CDP was originally developed with language that would have limited disaster assistance only to producers in counties that had been declared disaster areas. Through the efforts of PCG and other agricultural interest organizations the language was eventually changed to include producers who had eligible losses in counties contiguous to declared disaster areas.

Several High Plains counties have already started the effort to obtain disaster declarations.

COW POKES® By Ace Reid



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Motley County Tribune

Carla M. Meador ~ Publisher & Editor



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LEGAL NOTICE

MOTLEY COUNTY ISD hereby serves notice that they are now taking bids on:
1. Gasoline & Diesel
2. L.P.G.
3. Fleet Insurance
4. Property/General Liability Insurance/Errors & Omissions
5. Janitorial Supplies
Sealed proposals will be received in the Superintendent's office, P.O. Box 310, Matador, TX 79244, until 4:00 p.m., August 8, 2003.
All bids shall be in a sealed envelope plainly marked with which bid the envelope contains.
Bids will be opened during a regular board meeting. Bids received after the 4:00 p.m. deadline will be returned unopened.
Additional information, about the insurance, may be obtained by contacting Denise Ford at Motley County ISD (806) 347-2677.

THE MOTLEY COUNTY ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.

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2tc-30

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