



Matador Ranch headquarters, pictured in background, with a scenic view of ranchland and cattle, south of Matador.

photo by Carla Meador

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

“VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS”

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

50¢

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

ESTABLISHED 1891

ISSUE NO. 37

Motley County Commissioners meet in regular court session

Motley County Commissioners Court met Monday, September 12 for their regular court session. Members of the court present were County Judge Ed D. Smith; Commissioners, Ronnie Davis, Pct. 1, Donnie Turner, Pct. 2, Franklin Jameson, Pct. 3, and Russell Alexander, Pct. 4; County Clerk Kate Hurt. Also in attendance were County Attorney Tom Edwards and Sheriff Jim Meador. Judge Smith called the meeting to order and Commissioner Jameson gave the invocation.

Mrs. Hurt read the minutes from the previous meeting. Outstanding bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Re-

ports by the Treasurer, Tax Collector, Justice of the Peace, Library and County Agent were approved.

Judge Smith introduced to the Court Jackie Schneider representing Sharp Image Energy Inc. Mr. Schneider informed the Court that Sharp Energy is another company interested in working with the county to acquire easement on county roads and ditches to build the pipeline in Motley County that will connect to an existing line north of Floydada.

County Treasurer, Eva Barkley, presented to the court the new State Travel Reimbursement price set by Texas Government Code Ann. 660.043.

County Attorney, Tom Edwards, requested the court to consider if there is anything the County can do to aid in the relief efforts on the Gulf Coast.

Judge Smith presented for the court's approval a request to forgive the interest and penalty on four lots in Matador. Mid-State Homes agreed to pay the delinquent tax and deed the lots to Market Matador if the interest and penalty are waived. Judge Smith, Commissioners

Davis and Alexander voted in favor of the request. Commissioners Jameson and Turner voted against. The request passed by a 3-2 vote.

Matador City Council meets Tax rate ordinance adopted

The Matador City Council met Thursday, September 8 with council members Pat Seigler, Bert Darsey, Jim Watson and Shane Jones in attendance. Chuck Ream was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Paul Westbrook, Superintendent Steve Barton, City Secretary Debra Scott and Yellowhouse representative, Phil Brewer.

Mayor Westbrook called the meeting to order.

An open forum was held at 6:00 p.m. for citizens to discuss the proposed 2005 tax rate. No one was present to participate in this forum.

At 6:30 Mayor Westbrook closed the open forum and proceeded with the scheduled City Council Meeting.

Mayor Westbrook introduced Phil Brewer from Yellowhouse Machinery. Mr. Brewer presented Council with several options for payment of a backhoe cab that was delivered to the City in August, 2004. The Council feels that the cab

that was delivered was not what was ordered and asked that Mr. Brewer furnish Council with a signed purchase order for the cab enclosure kit. Council then tabled the matter until further information is obtained. Mr. Brewer then presented Council with a repair bill on the landfill dozer.

Mayor Westbrook had checked with the County on the road Mr. Clower inquired about at the last Council meeting. The road is in city limits. Two council members have driven the road and do not feel that the condition is as bad as described, so major repair is not needed, but the road will be graded when possible.

Chuck Ream joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

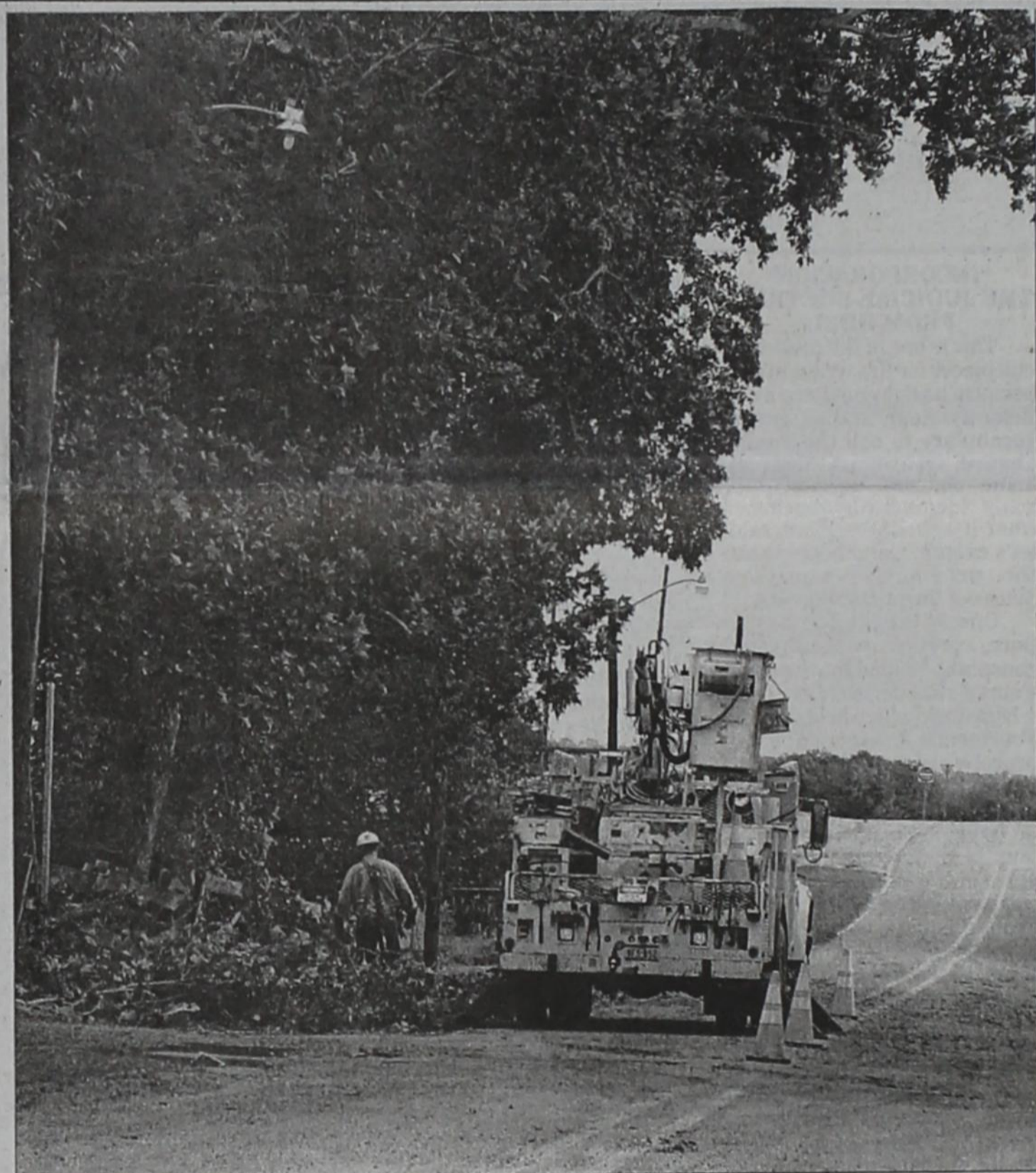
Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Bill were reviewed and approved.

Council approved an ordinance adopting the tax rate for 2005 as proposed at .3698 per \$100 valuation.

Mayor Westbrook signed the ordinance adopting the National Incident Management System, which was approved at the previous council meeting.

Superintendent Barton reported that after 3 weeks of repair the wells are in good shape. Additional gauges were installed to monitor the pumps. He picked up the tarp for the landfill, and the overhead door for the city barn, Wednesday, and hoped to get the door installed before starting the water lines to the Nursing Home. Additional clean-up will be done around the city when the employees have the free time available. The tractor used for plowing has required excessive repairs this year to keep it in operation.

Councilman Pat Seigler asked that the deputy's salary be put back on the agenda for the October meeting. Bert Darsey requested an ordinance be considered for additional stop signs at Lariat and Bundy.



AFTER THE STORM — Kenneth Marshall, AEP employee of Matador, works to clean branches from the roadway in Roaring Springs. Branches breaking from the large cottonwood trees covered the roadway Sunday night, 6 ft. high and closing the road. A storm blew through Roaring Springs Sunday night, with very high winds and flooding rains. Reports range from 2.5 to over 4 inches of rainfall.

September sales tax payments distributed to local governments

(Austin) — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced Monday that the state collected \$1.49 billion in sales tax in August, up 4.4 percent compared to a year ago. And when the state's 2005 fiscal year ended August 31, sales tax collections were 5.8 percent higher than in FY 04, contributing to a \$1.2 billion revenue surplus for fiscal 2005.

September 2, after closing the books on the last biennium, Strayhorn asked the governor to convene a three-day special session of the Legislature to appropriate the necessary funds to assist Texas education, security, health care and human service providers who are helping Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

"While we can count on the federal government to do what it can in Texas, the feds are not going to pay for us to hire more police, and they are not going to pay for us to bring in more teachers to educate the thousands of new children enrolling in our already stretched local schools.

"The need is here. The resources are here. We need to act now to provide relief to our Texas communities," Strayhorn said.

Strayhorn delivered \$358 million in September sales tax payments to local governments, a 9.3 percent increase compared to September 2004. So far this calendar year, local sales tax allocations are up 7.5 percent compared to the same period in 2004. September's sales tax allocations include local sales taxes collected in July and reported to the Comptroller in August.

Strayhorn sent September sales tax allocations of \$244.6 million to Texas cities, up 10 percent compared to September, 2004. Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax rebates are running 7.8 percent higher than last year. Texas counties received September sales tax allocations of \$20.6 million, up 6.4 percent compared to a year ago. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 8.6 percent higher than last year.

Another \$10 million went to 99 special purpose taxing districts around the state, an increase of 10.5 percent compared to a year ago. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to special purpose districts are up 12.1 percent compared to 2004. Ten Texas transit systems received \$82.7 million in September sales tax payments, up 8.2 percent compared to a year ago. Year-to-date, transit sales tax revenues are up 5.9 percent.

Matador, with a rate of 2.000%, received a net payment this period of \$4,638.25, compared to \$4,431.89 at this time last year, a 4.65% change. A total of \$42,071.26 has been paid for 2005, compared to \$38,822.38 in 2004, an 8.36% change.

Roaring Springs, with a rate of 2.000%, received a net payment of \$1,274.36, compared to \$623.84 at this time last year, a 104.27% change. A total of \$27,154.10 has been received for 2005, compared to \$25,262.34 at this time in 2004, a 7.48% change.

The Comptroller's next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, October 14.

AEP sends employees to Louisiana

Corpus Christi — On August 29, AEP Texas sent 151 employees and company contractors from throughout its service area to assist with power restoration efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

One hundred-five employees and contractors are assisting Southern Company in Mississippi. An additional 46 employees and contractors are assisting Energy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"AEP Texas sends its resources to aid other electric utilities as part of a mutual assistance agreement," said Charles Patton, AEP Texas president and chief operating officer. "When AEP Texas is hit by a major storm, these utilities

will, in turn, send crews to help us out."

The following is a breakdown of personnel assisting during the first two-week rotation and their work locations. After this group returns home, others will be taking their place to continue the restoration efforts.

Abilene District (which includes employees from Abilene, Stamford, Haskell, Cisco, Vernon, Clarendon and Shamrock): 20 employees.

Corpus Christi District (which includes employees from Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Beeville, Sinton, Kenedy, Victoria and El Campo): 22 employees.

San Angelo District (which includes San Angelo, Marfa and McCamey): 17 employees.
San Benito District (Pharr,

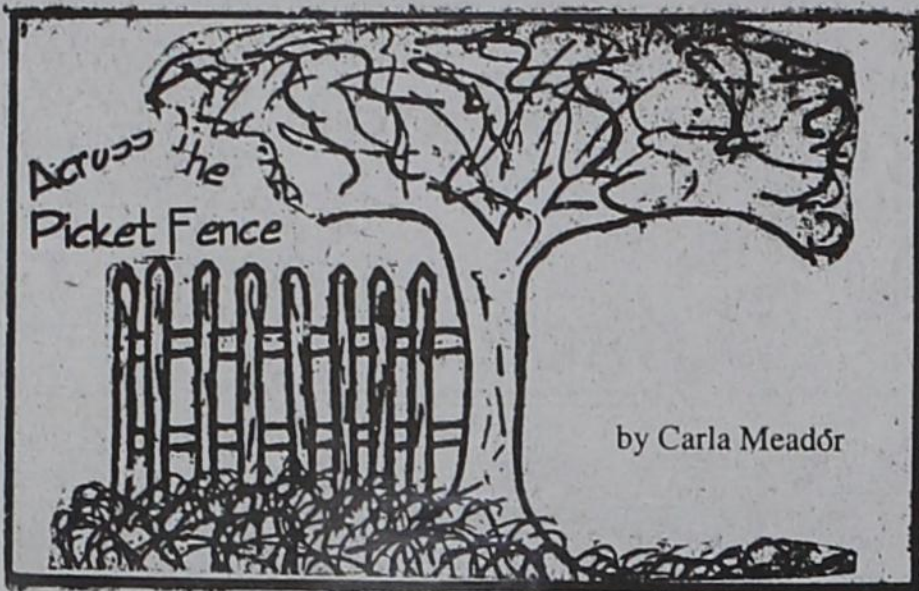
Harlingen, San Benito): 12 employees.

Contract Crews: 12 company contractors.

Tree Trimming: 22 tree trimmers.

Additional Personnel: 25 additional AEP Texas employees from Corpus Christi, Victoria, San Benito, Laredo, Uvalde, Harlingen and Pharr; 11 additional tree trimmers; 10 AEP Texas damage assessors.

AEP Texas, a unit of American Electric Power, delivers electricity to 850,000 homes, businesses and industries in south and west Texas. AEP Texas provides regulated energy delivery service to consumers, regardless of which Retail Electric Provider they choose. The region headquarters is in Corpus Christi.



I have very limited space this week and very limited thoughts roaming around in my brain. Well, I shouldn't say that. My brain is a ramble of thoughts and ideas all the time - even when I'm trying to sleep. I'm constantly thinking of ways to do the paper better, neat pictures to take, all the numerous things I have to do and am behind on, things I want to do in my house and yard, Christmas presents to make, ramble, ramble, ramble, on and on. Sometimes I drive myself crazy.

With all the worry-flurry of everything I need to do, I get blocked when it comes to writing this column. It's not that I don't have anything to say, it's just that my column seems to be the last thing I get around to and wind up trying to hurry through it on Wednesday morning before I have to leave to get the paper printed.

Throughout the week, I sometimes have inspiring ideas and will go through the entire column in my head. And it's usually while I'm in the middle of

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him."

Psalm 33:1

Proof of the Truth

by Tom Edwards

"INCORPORATION" THE JUDICIAL DOCTRINE FROM HELL!

This is one of the most difficult pieces for this writer to pen, because he does not have a sufficiently clean and extensive vocabulary to call the stupid, absurd, irrational, illogical, insane, obscene, corrupt, evil, goofy "Incorporation Doctrine" what it actually is. That said, let's examine, and begin to put the previously mentioned pieces of the puzzle together.

One is tempted to assign pure, corrupt, evil-motivated conspiracy behind the Supreme Court's 1925 decision in *Gitlow v. New York*, which held that the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause "incorporates" the first amendment as finding upon the States, but that would be wrong. It was an unimportant case that nobody remembers, and the Court's opinion was written by a less-than-intelligent Justice who succumbed to vacuous mental ramblings in the netherworld of relativistic thinking. "Incorporation" wasn't even necessary, to the case outcome, so perhaps a kinder and more accurate characterization of the effect of the holding is as a classic example of the operation of the "Law of unintended or unforeseen consequences," or Murphy's Law.

Nevertheless, while nobody remembers *Gitlow*, the "Incorporation Doctrine" has become firmly entrenched in Supreme Court jurisprudence as later

working in the yard or really involved in something else. The passing thought of "get some paper and write this down before you forget it" goes through my head. And I'll think I surely won't forget it, but guess what!

So, here it is, Wednesday morning, I'm in a big hurry to get the paper finished and trying to write my column again. Oh well, life goes on...

People are always telling me to stop and smell the roses. I wish I had time! If you're like me, I hope you will not follow my steps and that you will take the time to smell the roses and even pick a few.

Johnny Morris will speak at Assembly of God Church

Johnny Morris of Afton will be the guest speaker at the First Assembly of God Church, 910 Bundy, Matador, Sunday, September 18.

Mr. Morris will speak at the 11:00 a.m. morning service and the 6:00 p.m. evening service.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Library Notes



by Suzanne Abbott, Librarian

We appreciate the donation sent by Lindy Stafford in memory of Furman Vinson. Donations such as this make a lasting memorial to special people and help keep the library's collection up-to-date.

About Libraries: Libraries are changing and dynamic places — at the forefront of the information age. Libraries are places of opportunities — a part of the American Dream, a place for education and life-long learning.

Libraries bring you the world — whether from a book or from the Internet. The library is a community gathering place. There are 117,000 libraries in the United States.

It takes nearly 400,000 people to make these libraries for you every day. And, right now, all across America librarians are working to support the ruined and damaged libraries that suffered from the hurricane Katrina.

Annual Bazaar on agenda at Do Gooders' club meeting

On the agenda at the Do Gooders' Club meeting Tuesday afternoon, September 6, at the Community Center in Flomot, were plans for their annual Bazaar.

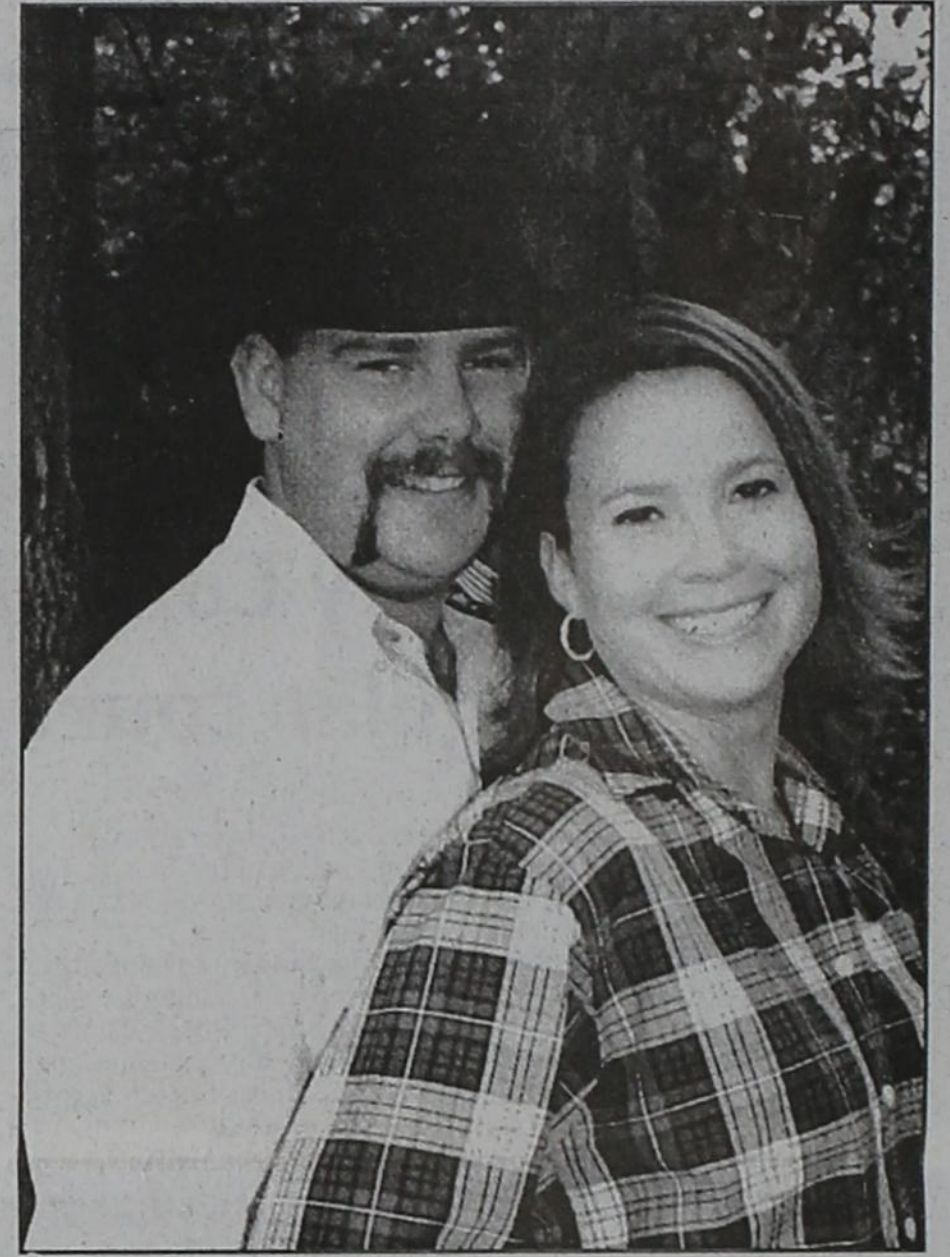
Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert conducted the business meeting. Mrs. Alma Shorter read the minutes of the previous club meeting that were approved. Members voted to have the Bazaar Saturday, November 12 at the Community Center. They worked on announcement posters that will be put on display at different locations. They then worked on their king sized 9 Patch Bazaar quilt that features stars at corners and around the



MR. AND MRS. TRUITT READ on their wedding day and 50 years later

50th Anniversary Celebrated

Truitt Read and Chelsea Young were united in marriage on September 11, 1955, at the Methodist Church in Alpine, Texas. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary over the Labor Day weekend. A fish fry and swim party was hosted by their children at the Roaring Springs Ranch. Children and grandchildren are: Debbie and Malcom Terry and children, Chris, Brandon and Adam of Liberty Hill, Texas; Scott and Sally Read and Crystal and Jade of Casper, Wyoming; and Vic Read of Blanco Canyon, Texas.



Talon Cruse & Christie Dubois

Couple announces Engagement

Christie Dubois of Floydada and Talon Cruse of Flomot would like to announce their engagement. Christie is the daughter of Craig and Gail Dubois of Floydada and the granddaughter of Bill and Wanda Dubois of Jewett and Curtis Poteet of Floydada. Talon is the son of Donnie and Judy Cruse of Flomot. He is the great-grandson of Donna Browning of Rising Star and the grandson of Mary Pitts of Lovington, NM and Tommie Jo Cruse of Flomot. The couple are planning an October wedding.

TEE TIME

by Judy



Ladies Play Day, Thursday, September 8, was for Low Putts. Playing 18 holes were Louise, Geneva, Jean H., Judy C., and Virginia. Judy C won with 23 putts.

Playing 9 holes that afternoon were Judy R., Nell, Frances, Marihelen, Tommye and Tempie. Judy R. and Frances tied with 17 putts each. Winning first place in the Tuesday scramble, September 6, was Alan, Darrell and Louise with a score of 30. Second place,

with a score of 31, was Conway, Brandon, Aaron and Jim.

Others playing were Billy H., Freida, Cody, Mike H.

No one won closest to pin on #6. There will be a carry over until Tuesday.

CONGRATULATIONS TIMMY! On September 4, Timmy Brooks hit a hole in one on #3 using his trusty 5 Iron. Witnesses to this event were Christian Brooks, Britt Simpson and James Adams.

MOTLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS & VIEWS

By Marie-Louise Liebe-Harkort



Consider:

Whenever you are to do a thing, though it can never be known but to yourself, ask yourself how you would act were all the world looking at you, and act accordingly.

— Thomas Jefferson

Well, maybe not the whole world is looking at you, but Motley County is, when you set off to come to the Chamber of Commerce meeting, which is scheduled for next Tuesday, September 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Library.

And we need you to come and help, because we will continue with the planning of the banquet, which will be held on Saturday, October 22nd.

Last month, the Chamber meeting was devoted primarily to working out the basics of the banquet, the date, the caterers, and the entertainment. Now we have to finalize everything.

And, please don't forget that you have only until Monday, September 19, to get your nominations to the Chamber. So much has been done by so many individuals for the benefit of the county that it is hard to decide

on just one Woman of the Year, one Man of the Year, and one Business of the Year, so your nominations are important.

You can make your nominations known by giving them to any Chamber board member, calling the Chamber office at 347-2968 and leaving a message, or dropping slips of paper with the nominations in the boxes placed around the community for them. The boxes are at the Variety Store, New to You, the Senior Citizens' Center and the Bank.

Remember, the Woman of the Year and the Man of the Year awards go to individuals who have volunteered their time and effort without reward, not to employees who have done a particularly good job. The employees keep an eye out for that sort of thing by their employees, and show their gratitude for it in their own way. Your nominations should include a brief mention of why you think the person or persons are deserving of the award, since their good deeds may not be widely known.

So, get your nominations in before it is too late for your voice to be heard.

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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

Made for Another World



We read in II Corinthians 5 that we as Christians have an identity crisis. We find ourselves inhabiting a worldly, physical body with all of its imperfections and limitations. We know, somewhere in the back of our minds, that our time on this earth is limited. And we also know that there is more to this life than what is seen with the eye.

It was C.S. Lewis who said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

The fact is that God made us for something more than just this earth...something much better than this earth. In reading II Corinthians 5 we find that our God "prepared us for his very purpose," i.e. to inhabit a "home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Since we are a people who have a marvelous inheritance waiting for us in heaven, shouldn't we be a people of purpose. A "purposed people" who are seeking to be well pleasing unto God. Why not join me in worship this Lord's day as we examine God's eternal purpose for us?

Roaring Springs Church of Christ
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.

BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP, 9:00 A.M.

Co-op ConnectionsSM Card

Join our new member benefits initiative - the Co-op Connections program.

This program gives you the opportunity to offer our cooperative members valuable discounts.

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For complete details, contact
Kay Hagins at
(806) 271-3311



South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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School Menu

MONDAY, SEPT. 19

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk.
Lunch: Fish Stick, Macaroni & Cheese, California Blend, Hush Puppy, Fruit, Milk.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 20

Breakfast: Biscuit, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, or Cereal, Toast, Applesauce, Milk.
Lunch: Sliced Turkey Sandwich, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Potato Chips, Chocolate Brownie, Milk.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk.
Lunch: Salisbury Steak, Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Corn, Biscuit, Fruit, Milk.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22

Breakfast: Pancake, Sausage, or Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk.
Lunch: Frito Pie, Salad, Crackers, Orange Slices, Milk.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

Breakfast: Egg & Cheese Omelet, Bacon, or Cereal, Toast, Pears, Milk.
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Honey, Milk.

Cheerleaders selling reserved stadium seats

The Motley County Varsity Cheerleaders are selling reserved stadium seats for football games. The cost is \$10 per seat. For more information contact Rebekah Jameson, Cheerleader Sponsor, at 347-2676 or after 4:00 p.m. at 347-2473.



Motley County J.S.D.

A Note from the Office ...



By Marilyn Hicks

Last night at the Motley County Parent's Club, we discussed meeting ways that parents wanted us to educate students about sexually transmitted diseases. There is an increased number of cases of STD's in the curriculum. Jan Jones is the chairperson of our Health Advisory Committee and is coordinating that effort. There will be a session for the parents prior to the presentation to students. Our primary target is the junior high population beginning with the sixth grade. A program called "Worth the Wait" is also being provided to us as a result of Mrs. Jones going to an abstinence workshop this summer. Gail Ream, a member of the District Site-Based Decision Making Team,

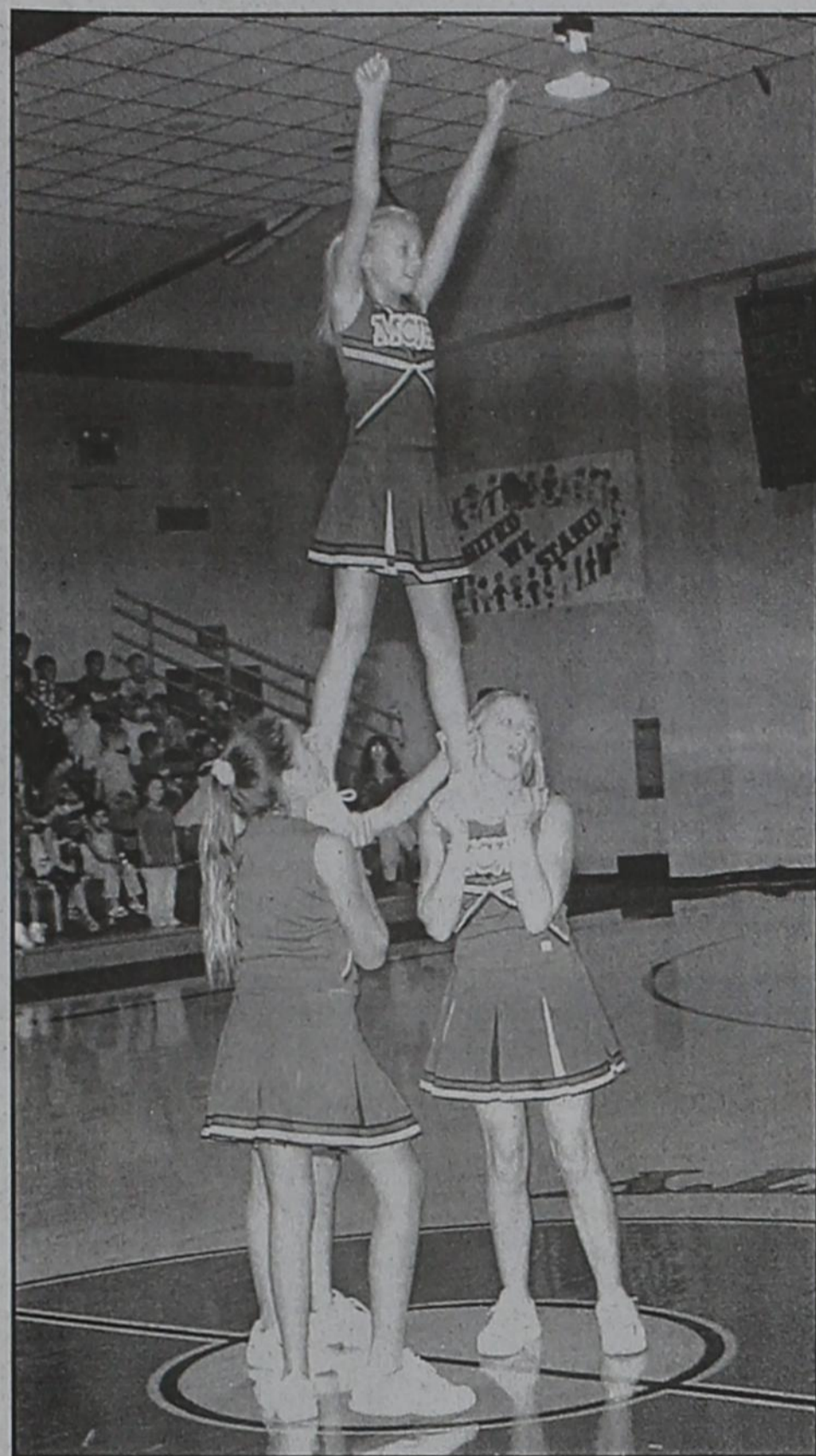
as well as a local health care professional, presented suggestions and served as a resource during the meeting.

The parent's club is busy collecting labels, coupons, and organizing recognition for perfect attendance. They are a valuable resource.

We are only a week away from six weeks tests. If your child hasn't shared progress or grades with you, it is certainly time to ask. The elementary students have daily planners that have assignments and notes from the teachers. There is also a place for parents to write notes and to sign each day. Please do that each evening as a part of the homework routine.

Whether your child is a beginning reader or a senior in high school, please make sure that he/she reads everyday.

SUPPORT THE MATADORS!



TEAM SPIRIT — Motley County Jr. High Cheerleaders, Leanne Jameson, top, Lexie Guerrero, Alyx Smith and Lexie Osborn, in back but not visible, at last week's Pep Rally.
photo by Walter Taylor

KEEP MOTLEY COUNTY CLEAN!

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Fall & Winter Consignments



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Downtown Matador ~ 806-347-2388



JR. HIGH PEP RALLY — MC Jr. High Cheerleaders and Football team at last week's Pep Rally.
photo by Walter Taylor

Go Matadors
& Mavericks!

★ MC Shining Star ★ September Student of the Month



Ashlee Green

Motley County's September Student of the Month is Ashlee Green. She is a Senior at MC ISD and the 17-year-old daughter of Billy and Cindy Green of Matador. Throughout her high school career, Ashlee has been actively involved in basketball, track, tennis, FCCLA, and National Honor Society. She has also received awards including Best All Around Student, Honorable Mention in Basketball, Academic All-State and Academic All-District. She was also crowned Homecoming Queen for the 2004-05 school year. During her spare time, Ashlee enjoys hanging out with friends and playing basketball. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in Radiology or Physical Therapy.

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'99 SATURN SL2 \$5,995

'00 BUICK CENTURY \$6,497

'01 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB \$12,995

'04 FORD MUSTANG \$13,539

'04 DODGE STRATUS \$13,927

'03 DODGE DURANGO \$13,995

'03 DODGE RAM 1500 RC \$14,995

'03 NISSAN ALTIMA \$15,759

'02 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB \$16,359

'04 FORD FREESTAR VAN \$16,759

'03 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB \$16,995

'05 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN \$17,559

'05 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE \$17,559

'04 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS \$17,595

'03 FORD F-150 QUAD CAB \$18,995

'05 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB \$19,995

'04 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB \$21,753

'05 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB \$21,995



OPEN HOUSE — Roy Hobbs, left, President of the Matador Branch, First National Bank, Seymour, is pictured here with Ken Young, local artist, who displayed his artwork at the bank during their Open House last Friday. The bank, formerly the First State Bank, recently merged with the First National Bank of Seymour.

Friends & Customers,

Thank you so much for making our Open House such a great success. We would especially like to thank Ken Young for displaying his photography and art work. We are extremely fortunate to have a professional of his caliber to be a part of our communities.

Again, we appreciate your attendance and being a part of our celebrating the merger of the First State Bank and the First National Bank of Seymour, which we think, will enable us to offer our customers a broader range of banking products and services.

Thanks again,
Officers and Employees of
Matador Branch
FNB - Seymour

Motley County hosts District FFA Meeting

Motley County School hosted a Greenbelt District FFA meeting on September 6. Approximately 100 FFA members and teachers from the rolling plains region attended the meeting, which was the first district function of the 2005-06 school year.

The FFA members were introduced to the District FFA officers and members of the various schools through a variety of activities. Many of these activities were designed to motivate the students, increase their awareness of the leadership opportunities offered by the FFA, and to promote agriculture.

The Advisors conducted business related to the FFA that included amending the rules that govern the number of voting delegates each chapter may have at district functions, finalizing a district calendar and deciding on a place and time for the Greenbelt District Banquet.

Also in attendance for the meeting were Dusty Moore representing CEV of Lubbock, Dr. Matt Baker of Texas Tech University, and David Harris of Fresh Country Fund raising.

The Motley County FFA Chapter wishes to thank Mr. Brown and Mrs. Hicks for opening our school to these guests and making them feel welcome. Also thanks to Fresh Country Fund Raiser and David Harris for their help in providing refreshments for the members and advisors, and to Judy Cooper and Susan Dunlap for the delicious desserts provided for the advisors.

DPS announces new Texas Ranger Chief, Assistant Chief

A new Texas Ranger chief and assistant chief have been named by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Capt. Ray Coffman has been named chief of the Texas Rangers and Capt. Jim Miller has been named assistant chief. Coffman replaces Senior Ranger Capt. Earl Pearson, who retired as of August 31.

"I am confident that Capt. Coffman will do an excellent job of guiding the Texas Rangers," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of Texas Dept. of Public Safety.

Coffman, who will hold the rank of Senior Ranger Captain, had been assistant chief of the Rangers since May 2004. Coffman has been with the DPS for more than 29 years, serving as a Highway Patrol trooper and DPS Narcotics lieutenant. He promoted to the Rangers in 1986 and promoted to Ranger lieutenant in 1996. In 2001, he promoted to Ranger Captain in San Antonio's Co. D. Coffman is a native of McAllen.

"I am truly honored to be considered for this position. I appreciate the Director having enough confidence in me to allow me the opportunity to lead the Texas Rangers. I will miss my good friend and mentor Chief Earl Pearson, but look forward to the new challenges ahead," Chief Coffman said.

Miller, now the assistant chief of the Rangers, became Captain of Company C in Lubbock in 2002. He transferred to Company A in Houston in 2004. Miller has been with DPS since 1975. He was a Driver License trooper, then a Highway Patrol trooper. He promoted to Ranger sergeant in 1987. In 1997, he promoted to Ranger lieutenant. In 2002, Miller was promoted to Captain. Miller is a native of Woodville.



STORM DAMAGE — This carport, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Don Stuckey in Roaring Springs, was blown over and badly damaged during a storm Sunday night.

Storm Damage in Roaring Springs



STORM MESS — The backyard of Margie Payne in Roaring Springs was a mess after Sunday night's storm. Big branches were torn from the huge trees in her beautiful yard.

RIB EYE STEAK SPECIAL

★ \$8.99 ★

AT

BILLIE DEAN'S RESTAURANT

Friday Night
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Served with Baked Potato
or Fries, Salad & Toast

347-2310

Call in or Carry out



PORTRAIT OF A TEXAS RANCH

WYMAN MEINZER
HENRY CHAPPELL
Forwarded by Red Steagall
Afterword by Mike Gibson

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RED STEAGALL, from his forward

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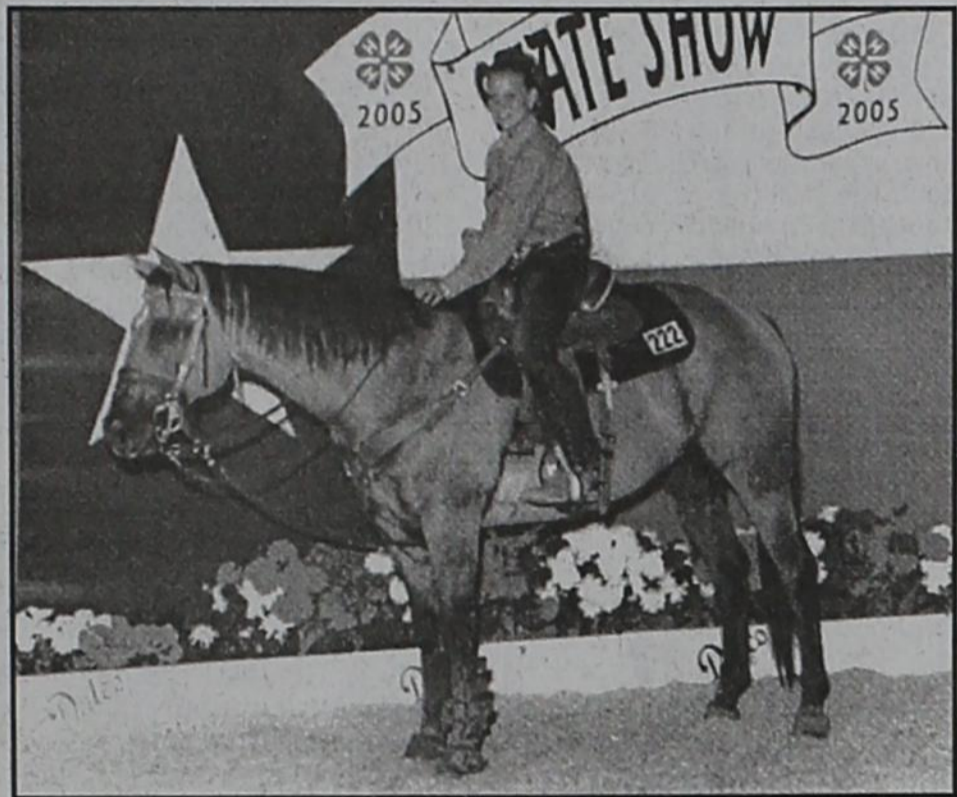
THE NEWSPAPER: A Family Affair

No other source of information gives your family more. News, views, entertainment, special features...there's something for everyone in the

Motley County
Tribune
347-2400



Motley County 4-H member, Colton Russell, right, with team members, Holley Hurt and Amanda Browning.



Motley County 4-H member, Shane'a Russell, at the State Horse Show.

Local 4-H members compete at State Horse Show

The 43rd Texas State 4-H Horse Show was held in Abilene, Texas July 23-30, 2005. Competing from the Motley County 4-H Club were Colton and Shane'a Russell. Colton and his horse, Miss Joy Sheik competed in the cutting on the 23rd, and finished in 13th place with scores of 129 in the first go and 137 in the second go. On Monday the 24th, they competed in the working cow horse and had the 9th highest score on the cow work with a 139.5 but their dry work was not high enough to help them finish in the top 15. On Tuesday, July 25, Colton and Miss Joy competed in Team Penning along with his partners Holley Hurt of King County and Amanda Browning of Childress County. The kids advanced to the finals penning six head. In the final go the kids penned their last 3 head of cattle in a time of 44.0 seconds to be named Reserve Champions.

Colton also competed in the 3-year-old Stock Horse on Tuesday and Wednesday. He and his 3-year-old Coon finished third on Tuesday and second on Wednesday and third overall in the State.

Shane'a and her horse, Tequila, competed in the Team Penning with her partners Kelsey Stokes and Rita Day of Dickens County 4-H. The girls penned their first 3 head in 1.16.24 to make it to semi-finals where they had tough luck and drew a Charolais that was not about to be penned. On Thursday, July 27, Shane'a and Tequila competed in the poles where they were 1.5 seconds of the comeback time for the finals, and on Friday, they competed in the barrels and stakes but had some wet top ground and lost their footing in both events.

These 4-H'ers have done a great job.

Hurricane fallout could cost area producers millions

Amarillo -- The destructive waves of Hurricane Katrina haven't subsided. Rising natural gas prices and the closing of ports in New Orleans are affecting corn and cattle producers in Texas and across the nation, one Texas Cooperative Extension expert said.

The price of natural gas has risen \$2-\$3 per thousand cubic feet since the hurricane, adding more than \$5 million to the expenses of raising corn under irrigation in the High Plains, said Dr. Steve Amosson, Extension economist here.

It takes approximately 20,000 cubic feet (20 mcf) of natural gas per acre to irrigate corn, Amosson said. While the crop is well on its way to maturity, about 20 percent of the water still must be applied before the estimated 650,000 acres are harvested, he said.

The natural gas price jump occurred because Gulf production accounts for about 20 percent of the nation's supply, and that percentage has been reduced by about 40 percent, Amosson said. Market speculators also are adding to the run up on natural gas prices, he said.

This added cost will be compounded at harvest time when producers must pay higher fuel for their combines, trucks and tractors needed to get the grain from the field to the elevator, Amosson said.

And adding insult to injury are the current corn prices, which remain unstable as the industry waits to see whether export traffic will resume on a timely basis, he said. Corn prices are already below the loan rate.

New Orleans handles a vast majority of the corn exports, Amosson said, "so we have to wait and see if export sales are hurt."

He said corn prices had already dropped from \$2.70 per bushel at planting time to about \$2.15-\$2.22 per bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, after crop estimates were released in late July.

The price could keep going down if the U.S. Department of Agriculture's projected production comes out in the 10.3 billion bushel range. This would indicate a surplus in the market at a time when exports might be slowed by hurricane destruction, Amosson said.

"This whole thing is going to put producers in a real financial bind," he said. "They can't quit the crop at this point, but if they have not done some forward pricing, it's going to be very difficult for them to cover just the out-of-pocket costs."

On the cattle side of the marketplace, lower corn prices will help with profitability in the short term because it makes the cost of gain cheaper, Amosson said.

In the long run, though, this could end up costing cattle producers.

Cattle on feed are currently losing money. With cheaper feed available, cattlemen have the tendency to feed the cattle longer and try to lower the cost of gain, he said.

This results in heavier animals coming out of the feedlots and more tonnage of beef on the market, which could in turn depress feed cattle prices, Amosson said.

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Oil & Gas Update

By Tom Musser

Floyd County: Patterson-UTI Drilling Rig #494 moved onto the BASA Resources Inc., L.N. Johnson Lease Well #1 on Wednesday, September 7, 2005 and has begun drilling. This is an experienced rig and crew. Rig #494 drilled the D.M. Cogdell, Jr. Estate Well #10-01, the Echols Well #1, and the M. Bursleson Ranch Well #1. Mr. Richard R. King, King Consultant, Lubbock, is supervising the drilling operations for BASA Resources, Inc. Mr. King has prior experience in drilling wells in Floyd County. He drilled the Southport Exploration Dorrell Well #1 in 1985 and the Staley Operating Crump #1 in 1987.

Floyd County: BASA Resources, Inc. has staked a new location on the B.M. Smitherman Lease located in the South half of Section 15, Block D-2. This location is 4 miles Southeast of South Plains. From Highway 207, East on FM Road 97 for two miles, North on County Road 189 for two and a half miles, location is on the East side of the county road.

Floyd County: FieldPoint Petroleum Corporation on September 8, 2005 announced they would be filing their second drilling permit in the Palo Duro Basin. FieldPoint Corporation filed its first drilling permit under the name of Bass Petroleum, Inc.

Vintage Petroleum, Inc. On Thursday September 8, 2005, Charles C. Stephenson, Jr. CEO of Vintage Petroleum, Inc. made a thirty minute presentation to the Lehman Brothers CEO Energy/Power Conference. The presentation is available on the Vintage Petroleum, Inc. Website: <http://www.vintagepetroleum.com> Both the Echols and the Bursleson Wells are discussed in the presentation. In addition Vintage Petroleum stated they will be considering drilling a horizontal well next year in the Palo Duro Basin.

Motley County: The Vintage Petroleum, Inc. Echols Lease Well #1 continues pumping off of frac fluid with gas volumes increasing. The well was fraced in two stages. The upper stage has flowed back and been swabbed back. Currently working on swabbing back the lower stage. Vintage Petroleum, Inc. has NOT released volume numbers, but they have expressed their optimism of the Echols Well #1.

Motley County: The Vintage Petroleum, Inc. M. Bursleson Ranch Lease Well #1 is scheduled to be fraced within two weeks. The initial Vintage Petroleum, Inc. statement on the M. Bursleson Ranch Well #1 is the shale zone is thicker and has a higher percentage of organic content than what was found in the Echols Well #1.

Motley County: The Tyner Texas Operating Company, R.G. Stephens Lease Well #1 has been drilled to a total depth of 10,000 feet.

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LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Motley County Tribune Weather Sept. 15, 2005

7-Day Forecast	In-Depth Forecast	Moon Phases																																																
Thursday Partly Cloudy High: 86 Low: 64	Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 86°, humidity of 49% and an overnight low of 64°. The record high temperature for today is 102° set in 1965. The record low is 43° set in 1961.	Full 9/17 Last 9/25 New 10/3 First 10/10																																																
Friday Partly Cloudy High: 87 Low: 63	<h4 style="text-align: center;">Last Week's Local Almanac</h4> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> <th>Precipitation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>91</td> <td>64</td> <td>89/65</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Normal precipitation 0.57"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>91</td> <td>65</td> <td>89/65</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Departure from normal -0.57"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>94</td> <td>66</td> <td>89/65</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>92</td> <td>63</td> <td>89/64</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Average temperature 77.7°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>90</td> <td>62</td> <td>88/64</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Average normal temperature . . . 76.4°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>92</td> <td>59</td> <td>88/64</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Departure from normal +1.3°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>93</td> <td>66</td> <td>88/63</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>Data as reported from Childress, Texas</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation	Sunday	91	64	89/65	0.00"	Normal precipitation 0.57"	Monday	91	65	89/65	0.00"	Departure from normal -0.57"	Tuesday	94	66	89/65	0.00"		Wednesday	92	63	89/64	0.00"	Average temperature 77.7°	Thursday	90	62	88/64	0.00"	Average normal temperature . . . 76.4°	Friday	92	59	88/64	0.00"	Departure from normal +1.3°	Saturday	93	66	88/63	0.00"	Data as reported from Childress, Texas	
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