

Happy 2006!

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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Texas Tech University
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Photo by Johnny Davenport, Dec. 18, 1958, Cow Hollow Tank, Matador Ranch

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006

ESTABLISHED 1891

ISSUE NO. 1

Important annual meeting slated for Care Center January 9

An extremely important annual meeting for the Hackberry Creek Care Center is scheduled for Monday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center in Matador. Input from the membership will determine the course on far-reaching issues facing the elected board of directors as long-awaited construction begins.

According to HCCC Board President Seab Washington, committees are needed to aid in the planning of policies and personnel, fund raising, decorations, art, and landscaping. Involvement from the community is essential to the success of this endeavor, he emphasized.

A waiting list for patrons is being generated for the participated opening in the early fall. Resumes and job applications will be considered, with the hiring of the nursing home administrator slated for the near future. Job descriptions and training levels dictated by the job are being compiled by the board.

Architect Paul Rhinelander of Austin, responsible for design and implementation of the beautiful and well-appointed Jayton Care Center, has planned the basic design of Motley County's care center to accommodate enhancements from the community. Opportunities exist to donate funds, over and above the budget, with spe-

cific projects in mind, i.e., furniture, art, patio fencing, patio waterfall, landscaping, and others. Each donation will be designated with appropriate plaques and recognition.

Rhinelander is working with bid-winning contractors, EBCO of Cameron, represented on site by superintendent, Jon Moller and care center building committee headed by Jim Watson.

The Hackberry Care Center is a non-profit facility, financed by loans from Rural Development, USDA's branch dedicated to economic development in rural communities. There is no tax liability to the local county government, with the exception being donated in-kind services such as leveling and grading to help defray construction costs. Proceeds and profits from the projected 50-bed care center will be plowed back into its operation. At other care centers the ratio of employee to patient approaches 1 to 1.

Benefits to the county will include the creation of jobs, housing for new residents, potential increase of enrolled students, and spending by visitors to the care center.

A regularly scheduled board meeting will follow the annual meeting. The public is always invited to attend. The next board meeting will be on Thursday, January 26, at 5 p.m.

Bill Smith to run for 110th District Judge



Bill Smith: Briscoe County native to run for 110th District Judge.

Bill Smith, candidate for 110th District Judge, was raised on his family's ranch in Briscoe County. After graduating from Texas A&M and Texas Tech School of Law, he moved his family to Silverton in 1996, where he has served nine years as County Attorney. Along with prosecuting criminal cases and working in his private practice, Bill has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas District and County Attorney Association. Prior to that, he served on the training committee

for TDCAA as well.

"If elected, my foremost concern will be seeking and implementing the true and impartial application of justice for every citizen in the four county district. I will be prepared and capable of presiding over every case. However, the vast majority of civil cases never come to trial. The parties settle their cases outside the courtroom, many settle using mediation. Mediation and arbitration save billions of dollars each year in litigation costs alone and a judge needs to be firmly committed to referring appropriate civil cases to dispute resolution to save \$\$\$ for the taxpayers, consumers and businesses. Mediators have no clients. They serve as impartial, unbiased neutrals assisting litigants and their attorneys in resolving their disputes. No attorney ever gives half their client's case away. Only the actual parties in the suit have the ability to determine whether to settle or proceed to trial. In addition to the financial savings, mediations can save your time as potential jurors from

having to stop your busy schedules for days to serve on a jury solving others' problems. I've mediated hundreds of cases for other attorneys and their clients, most of which the litigants have reached agreeable settlements, acceptable by all parties. I believe mediation is a fair and easy way to save money and time while not

creating injustice."

"If elected, not only will I make fair, impartial and knowledgeable decisions from the bench, but I will also be fiscally responsible."

"I am humbled and honored at the support I have received and I look forward to meeting and visiting as many as possible within the next few weeks."



Pictured are Bill's wife DeLane, Bill and daughter Ashley.

Political advertising paid for by Bill Smith in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. Bill Smith subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. Guy W. Young, Treasurer, P.O. Box 233, Quitaque, Texas 79255.

2005 Newsmaking headlines

2005 has come and gone and Motley County had some good news and some bad news. All in all the good news outweighed the bad and residents are looking forward to more good news in 2006. The care center will soon be under construction with expectations high for an opening before the end of the year. The refurbishing efforts for Bob's Oil Well made great strides in 2005 and hopes are

high for more work this year, with plans for bricks to be laid in the near future.

Following is a look back at the newsmaking headlines for 2005:

January 6, 2005:

Audit shows school's finances in great shape

Elected County Officials sworn into office

Local citizens rally to search for missing Matador man ... "Jimmy (Wit) Smith, long-time Matador resident, and well-known to area citizens, was reported missing about 11 a.m. Sunday morning.

After three hours of search efforts, Mr. Smith was located near the old black school."

2004 rainfall totals surpass

Motley County's average **January 13, 2005:**

Construction begins on addition to Motley County Senior Citizens Center

Community Blood Drive set to help avoid Winter blood shortage

January 20, 2005:

Matador Ranch recognized in Spring Sire Evaluation report

Local Churches to join forces for 40 day Bible Study

January 27, 2005:

Matador City Council appoints Municipal Judge

Valentine Banquet will combine Mother-Daughter, Father-Son Banquets

State records sixteen months of sales tax growth

Ginning still in progress in

Motley County **February 3, 2005:**

Attorney General files brief urging Supreme Court to uphold Ten Commandments monument

continued next week

Local candidates file for re-election

The filing date for a place on the March primary ballot ended January 2. Motley County candidates announcing their candidacy include Russell Alexander, Commissioner Precinct 4; Donnie Turner, Commissioner, Precinct 2; Kate Hurt, County and District Clerk; Cora Smallwood, Justice of the Peace; and Eva Barkley, County Treasurer. Each of the candidates have filed for reelection. Also up for election is the County Judge's position.

Registered voters may submit for a ballot by mail beginning Friday, January 6. The last day the County Clerk may receive applications for ballot by mail voting is February 28.

The last day to submit an application to register to vote in the Primary Election is February 6.

Early voting will begin February 21 and end March 3.

Tempie Francis, candidate for District Judge, receives Veteran's Endorsement



Tempie Francis

Deanie Bishop Parrish entered the military service during World War II because of her sense of patriotism. She joined the WASP (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) in 1943. Ms. Parrish met her husband while they were both serving their country and she remains committed to protecting her home state of Texas and her country.

Deanie met Tempie Francis, who is a fellow pilot, while Tempie was doing volunteer work for the WASP WWII Museum. Later, Tempie was elected to the Board of Directors and now serves as their le-

gal counsel. When Deanie learned that Tempie was running for District Judge she sent the following endorsement:

"The District Court should be presided over by a District Judge who has the integrity, honesty and reliability to ignore any opportunities for political or

personal gain, to not be swayed by the financial or social standing of any litigant, and to meter out equal treatment to all participants. I believe Tempie

Francis, a proven attorney, who has a passion for people's rights and will stand up and fight for those rights, is such a person. She is a role model for others, especially children, and her election as District Judge would take any politics, discrimination and indecisiveness out of the courtroom and replace it with firmness, fairness and swift and equal justice."

Deanie Parrish, Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), WWII

(Pd. Pol. Adv. for Tempie T. Francis, 201 W. California, Floydada, TX 79235, by Angela Ragland, Treasurer.)

Business burglarized in Roaring Springs

A Roaring Springs business was burglarized sometime between Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning. Motley County Sheriff, Jim Meador, was notified of the burglary of The Hitchin' Post Restaurant, about 8:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, January 4, by owner Sara Chapman.

According to Sheriff Meador, entry was made through the back door. Approximately \$250-\$300 in cash was taken. Other than the damage to the back door, there was no other damage done to the business and the cash was the only thing reported to be missing at newstime.

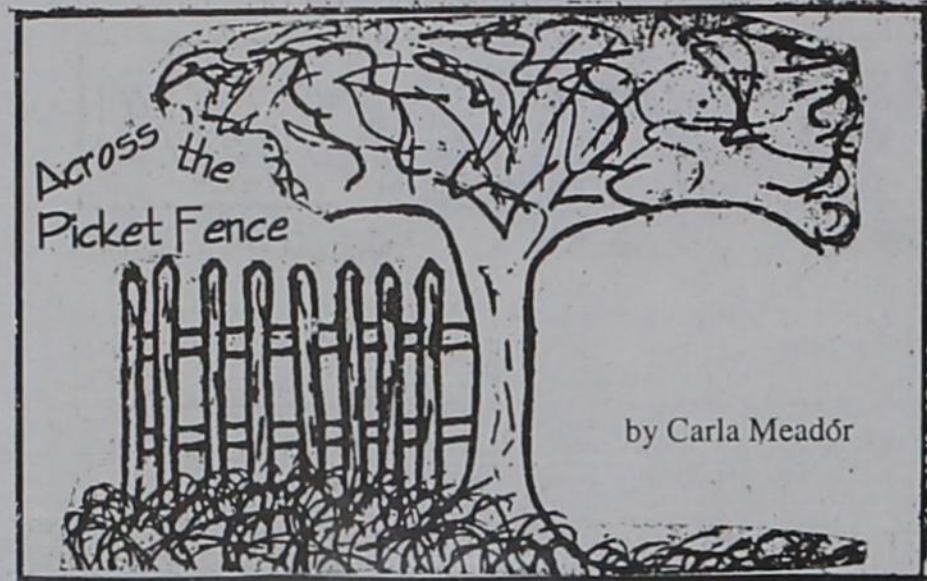
Judge issues executive order for burn ban

Motley County Judge, Ed D. Smith, on Tuesday, issued an executive order declaring a state of disaster for Motley County resulting from the potential threat of wildfires due to drought and adverse weather conditions.

The order states that regulations, taking effect immediately, prohibits the use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment by any person including, but not limited to, the

use of all fireworks, materials used in activities such as welding and other activity that could result in a fire.

Judge Smith also issued a declaration of disaster for Motley County due to the threat of wildfires due to drought and other weather related conditions and has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property.



2006! Wow! I think I say this every year, but man did 2005 pass by fast! What a whirlwind year for Motley County. Actually the good people of this county got a lot accomplished in 2005. Just take a drive around and you can see the difference. The town of Matador is a lot cleaner with a lot less junk lying around. That's a big improvement!

Bob's Oil Well looks great! The tireless efforts of volunteers brought that project to fruition, and there's much more to be done so we still have a lot to look forward to. Hats off to those who have worked so hard! The Hackberry Creek Care Center will soon be a reality! Groundbreaking ceremonies kicked off the reality of the project with groundmoving equipment and a construction trailer on site.

The wonderful members of the local clubs and organizations keep things going with fun activities, such as Late Night Shopping, the Fall Bazaar and Mini-Olympics.

Our school is up and coming, with a good financial report, great results from our students' testing, great teachers and kids.

Roaring Springs was named a Preserve America community in 2005! That's a big accomplishment. The never-ending work of some dedicated Roaring Springs citizens is very admirable! They just never seem to get tired and never lack for ideas to improve this area with great and fun activities, such as the July 4th celebration, Kid's Camp, Memorial Day observance, the old-fashioned Late

Night Shopping and new this year was the County Fair. If you missed any of those events, you missed a lot of fun.

The 70-mile garage sale was a big hit again, in 2005, bringing lots of folks to the county.

And the efforts of the Flomot Do Gooders' club members keeps the north part of Motley County alive. Their tireless efforts to keep the old school building in such good condition is admirable. The wonderful Christmas Bazaar the club sponsors is a fun and festive event every year.

And we must not forget the people of Northfield. Their hard work on the beautiful expanding farms and ranches in that area gives passersby some lovely scenery and keeps that part of Motley County very much alive. Oh, I know, days like this past Sunday, with 60-mile per hour winds and the sand blowing so thick you can't see three feet in front of you makes you stop and wonder why anyone would want to live here. And then a new day dawns, like the beautiful, sunny Monday we experienced this week, we sweep away the dust, pick up all the blown-over items in the yard, and we somehow forget the ugliness of the dust storm. We breathe in the new fresh air as we gaze out on the wide open spaces where we can see as far as our eyes can take us, and pause and thank God we live in Motley County.

God's blessings to you in 2006! And best wishes to the residents of Motley County for another successful year!

Couple exchanges vows in December ceremony

Joshua Piercy and Amanda Hurt were united in marriage December 17, 2005, in a holiday ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Matador with the Rev. Terry Wilson of Earth officiating.

The bride was given in marriage by her father Tommy Hurt. She wore an off-the-shoulder white satin dress with a chapel train. The dress featured a beaded bodice and front. She carried out the traditional something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue theme. For something old and blue she carried one of her Granny (Ruby) Thompson's handkerchiefs. For something borrowed she wore her mother's diamond earrings. Something new was her dress.

Dumont Darsey, longtime friend of the bride, provided beautiful piano selections and the wedding march.

Emily Hurt, cousin of the bride, served as the Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Britany Barclay, cousin of the bride, and friends Sis Taylor, Mandi and Charli Ream. They wore red formal length dresses of iridescent taffeta and each carried a red rose.

The Groom wore a black tuxedo with a red vest and tie. Best man was Lance Layton, friend of the groom, of Sudan. Groomsmen were Evan Maxwell, friend of the groom, Chance Williams, brother of the groom, Tommy Hurt, Jr., brother of the bride, and Sam Stapleton, friend of the bride. They wore black slacks, white shirts and red ties.

Flower girls were cousins of the bride, Tristan Perryman and Tylee Barclay. Tristan wore a long white beaded gown. She pulled little 10 1/2-month-old

Tylee in a holiday decorated red wagon. Tylee wore a red and white velvet dress. The girls scattered white rose petals as they made their way to the altar.

The ring bearer was Zachary Ashby, nephew of the bride. He wore a black tuxedo.

Ushers were cousin of the bride, Stacey Perryman and cousin of the groom, Justin Mercado.

The front of the church was beautifully decorated with a Christmas tree flowing with gold ribbons and traditional Christmas ornaments, beautiful gold angels, Christmas greenery, and two white columns with candles.

A reception was held in the Church's fellowship hall following the ceremony.

The bride's table, decorated with white netting and a lace tablecloth and roses, featured a beautiful four-tier wedding cake, baked and decorated by Brenda Osborn. The cake was white and featured red bows on each tier, set on lighted clear blocks.

Serving at the bride's table were Stachia Baxter, Sabrina Osborn and Lisa Perryman.

The groom's table was decorated with a red tablecloth and featured a Hershey bar cake, also baked and decorated by Brenda Osborn. The cake featured a topper depicting the bride dragging the groom. Coffee and hot wassail punch was served from a silver service set. Serving at the groom's table were Jennifer Harper and Jackelyn Ford of Sudan.

After a short honeymoon trip, the couple resides in Levelland, where they both attend South Plains College.



Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Piercy (nee Amanda Hurt)



Brad Wilson and Blair Thacker

Engagement announced

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Thacker of Roaring Springs are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Blair Louisa, to Bradford Scott Wilson of Lubbock. Brad is the son of the late Don and Anna Lee Wilson, and Carolyn Ewing of Matador.

Blair is a 1999 graduate of Motley County High School and a graduate of Lubbock Hair Academy. She is currently a hair stylist employed by Sachet Hair Salon in Lubbock.

Brad is a 1992 graduate of Motley County High School and is currently employed by Patterson-UTI. The couple plan to wed on February 18 at the Frasier Alumni Pavilion in Lubbock.

Note of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who had a part in celebrating our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, gifts and your presence. God bless and Happy New Year.

Pete & Bessie Jean Williams

Library Notes

by Suzanne Abbott, Librarian



We appreciate the memorial donations received this past week. We thank W.C. Pallmeyer for his donation in memory of Pearl Simpson and in memory of Trula Martin.

Celebrating Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday, the Franklin Tercentenary Commission has sent, as a gift, a beautiful book called Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World. This book is beautifully illustrated with more than 265 color images — maps, portraits, manuscripts, drawings, and many of Franklin's possessions. The Motley County Library is fortunate to receive this lovely book.

For young readers, the library has *When Washington Crossed the Delaware, A Wintertime Story for Young Patriots* by Lynne Cheney. This book is also beautifully illustrated and presents, with new insights, the

familiar story of the famous crossing.

The library has begun updating its Young Adult (ages 17-19) section of the library. We have three new fiction stories written to appeal to readers just approaching adulthood. We have *Peeps* by Scott Westerfeld. *Peeps* is a medical science fiction. *All Rivers Flow to the Sea* by Alison McGhee relives the story of seventeen-year-old Rose Latham who can't forget the accident that killed her sister.

The newest Young Adult novel in the library is called *Full Service* by Will Weaver. This book follows a young man, who was raised on a farm, to the big city where he gets a job in a gas station and learns about big-city ways.

Happy New Year to all our readers!

Thank you for reading the Motley County Tribune

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PRAY FOR RAIN!

The Road Before Us

What does the New Year hold for us? It is a "new road" that lies before us and no doubt it will have some smooth places and some that are not so smooth. It is good for us that we cannot predict the future events. There just might be some things that would really scare us and cause great worry with advanced notice. There is some ignorance to be grateful for and to realize the hidden blessings in it.

It is here! 2006. It could be that this is the year that we can cultivate a keen desire to know the Lord better. We want to do a much better job of applying His will to our lives. The One whom we esteem so highly, the One we long to see, has promised us a close walk together. The words, "I will be with you always ..." comes to our minds. What a promise! Walking with Jesus through 2006.

For this New Year, the words of the Bible, found in the book of Numbers 6: 24-26, will be of comfort. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

ROARING SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Michael G. Crowley, Sr.

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

RESTRICTED USE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

COUNTY OF MOTLEY

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 2006-03

January 3, 2006

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF Motley County Judge

WHEREAS, by proclamation issued January 3, 2006, the County Judge of Motley County declared a state of disaster for Motley County, resulting from:

THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF WILDFIRES DUE TO DROUGHT AND ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

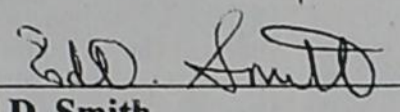
NOW, THEREFORE, the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon issuance of this order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated:

1. THE USE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS IN AN OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT BY ANY PERSON IS PROHIBITED.

a. COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE USE OF ALL FIREWORKS, MATERIALS USED IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS WELDING AND OTHER ACTIVITY THAT COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

In accordance with the Local Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS THE MITIGATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD POSED BY WILDFIRES DURING THE CURRENT DROUGHT AND SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS BY CURTAILING THE USE OF ALL COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS.


Ed D. Smith
Motley County Judge

DECLARATION OF DISASTER

COUNTY OF MOTLEY

Proclamation #2006-02

January 3, 2006

DECLARATION OF DISASTER FOR MOTLEY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the County of Motley on the 3rd of January 2006, is under imminent threat of severe damage, injury of loss of life or property resulting from:

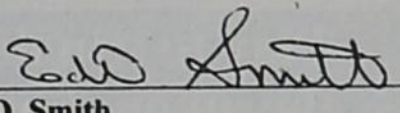
THE THREAT OF WILDFIRES DUE TO DROUGHT AND OTHER WEATHER RELATED CONDITIONS; and

WHEREAS, THE COUNTY JUDGE of Motley County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF MOTLEY COUNTY:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby proclaimed for Motley County pursuant to § 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued for renewed by the Commissioners Court of Motley County.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this Declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of Motley County.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this Declaration of the local state of disaster activates the Motley County Emergency Management Plan.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance, **ORDERED THIS 3rd day of January, 2006.**


Ed D. Smith
Motley County Judge

Motley County Chamber News & Views

by Marie-Louise Liebe-Harkort



Consider:
"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."
-- Charles Schultz

And it's already next year here.

Hard to believe, but it is already 2006. Christmas has come and gone. And the traditional time for making resolutions has also come and gone.

People seem to focus on big things when they make their resolutions - changing big habits or starting to do things they have meant to do for a long time.

That is all fine and good, although the yearly attempt to change things that don't seem changeable can be frustrating when it cannot be carried through. But do not lose heart -

- some things can be changed, even big ones.

Each day gives us a new chance to try.

But what about the little ones?

Before Christmas, there were all those little things that went wrong, or at least didn't go exactly to plan. You promised yourself you would never do it that way again, that you had a better way that you would turn to in the future. What have you done to make sure you actually do it differently in the future? Written in your calendar? Made a note on the recipe? Told other people in the home that they will remind you?

The little things are the ones that get you down. How long will it take for you to write "2006" on your checks? Or will you be really careful the first week or two,

and then revert to writing "2005"?

Don't worry -- we all do it, and it would be surprising if we didn't, since we are creatures of habit. But eventually we get it right, and begin to write "2006" automatically.

And it is the same with all the other habits, big and small. We keep trying to write the year correctly, because we have to. So why not keep at the other habits we want to change? There is nothing magical about New Year's resolutions -- we can make resolutions any time, and we can try, and eventually we will get it right.

When you finally write "2006" automatically, smile, and think of the other things you wanted to change. Keep trying, and it will work.

Proof of the Truth

by Tom Edwards

DUMBING DOWN (part one)

In 1981, at a noon gathering spot where most of the heavy lawyers and judges met, in Houston, one of them posed the question: "Are ya'll having any problems with this new batch of lawyers out of Law School?" The response was a deafening and unanimous "Yes!" Present were renowned state and federal judges, senior partners of some of the most prestigious law firms in the country, and a cross section of the best trial and appellate lawyers in the state. All were in agreement: "Houston, we have a problem."

All of a sudden, for no discernible reason, the new members of the Bar Association were quite different from those who had gone before. While there were, and are, exceptions, the majority couldn't spell, couldn't write, couldn't logically think, and worst of all, many were patiently dishonest, with no apparent morality except for their own selfishness and "anything goes" mentality.

The pattern got worse in later years, and it continues today, but the arrival of the "Law Class of 80" caused a sea change in the legal profession and the practice of law. Prior to that, while there were always a few untrustworthy souls (which everybody knew), the overwhelming majority of the profession adhered to the old maxim "a man's word is his bond." Not so with the new

bunch. Everyone quickly learned to require that they put everything in writing. Even the Rules of Court had to be amended to address the resulting problems, as well as Ethics Rules.

It is true that "as goes society, so goes the legal profession." The question is "What happened?"

A little arithmetic will tell us that the "Law Class of 80" started elementary school in 1960-1962, and was born in 1954-1956. Put your thinking caps on. What can account for this obvious "dumbing down," and lack of morality of what now accounts for a large segment of our current society?

There's little doubt that the generation of yours truly, "born in '42," contributed to all this with the college turbulence of the early 60's, but what else? This new bunch was raised on television and came of age during the worst of Viet Nam, but

does that explain it?

Next week - Part two, and a possible answer.

(Correction: The last article on Intelligent Design should have said "The real issue is "Bad" vs. "Good" science. If "good science" happens to disclose an intelligent designer, then so be it.)

SPAG to present sessions on Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) will present sessions on the new Medicare Prescription Drug Savings Plan. The training will help seniors and interested volunteers to use the new Medicare D website.

Medicare Training for Motley County will be held Monday, January 9, 2006, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. at the Motley County School ITV room.

Please contact Motley County School, 347-2676, for further information.

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Donations being accepted to help repair home

Donations are being accepted to raise funds for much needed repair work to the home of Tommy Cooper, a disabled young man in Roaring Springs. Mr. Cooper is confined to a wheel chair and lives on a fixed income.

Some men have committed their time to do the work, but funds are needed for supplies such as sheetrock, wiring, a shower, etc.

Donations may be made at PolyPipe, Petticoat Junction, The Hitchin' Post, Alexander Fuel, H&P Feed, Graham's Supply, Thacker Jewelry, or at the Matador Branch First National bank in care of LaNita Geer. For more information call Mrs. Geer at 348-7004 or 348-7205.

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News around the County

Roaring Springs News

By Lula Swim

Trudy Hand of Wolforth, Kristy Adams, Tyler and Madison of Tahoka, Kelly, Mary, Matt and Kasey Hand of Coppell, Justin Gillian of Grapevine, Duane, Kim, Abbi Watson and Hanna Alexander of Lubbock, Bonita Barton of Magnolia, Ark. visited in the home of Bill and Mozelle Hand and enjoyed a family Christmas Eve.

Bill and Mozelle Hand spent the weekend of December 17 and 18 at the home of her daughter and family, Missy and Ken Davis, Jay, Laura and Jhett Davis in Grandview.

Hanna Alexander spent three days of Christmas week with her Papa Billy Hand and Mozelle.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Crowder had their granddaughter of Rockwall to spend Christmas with them.

Miss Sherry Harris flew down to Georgia to spend a week with her folks. She arrived back on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Cleo Watson and Monty Watson met her plane.

Mrs. Cleo Watson and Larry spent Christmas Day in Lubbock with her granddaughter and family, Paige and Bryan Barnes and daughters. Larry returned to Austin on Monday.

Kenzie and Caleb Martin of Matador spent from Christmas to New Years in the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Swim of Lubbock brought Christmas lunch to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Swim. Lula Swim joined them for lunch and visiting.

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Swim attended graveside services for Mrs. George (Monta) Turner at Plainview on Wednesday. The Turner's were former residents here before moving to Bovina.

The Christmas dinner at the Methodist Church on Christmas Day was well attended. There were 24 present and 10 lunches were delivered to shut-ins.

A church full attended the candlelight service held at the Roaring Springs Methodist Church on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Juanita Cooper of Matador had lunch with Lula Swim on Wednesday at her home.

Mrs. Ruby McGuire, Mrs. P.K. Green and Lula Swim and Jeanne Adams attended funeral services in Matador Friday for Mrs. Lola Pohl.

PREDICTA STUDY CLUB ENJOYS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Predicta Study Club members met in the home of Mrs. Pam Thacker on Tuesday night, December 13. Mrs. Pam Thacker gave the History of Carols for the program.

After enjoying a table full of goodies, gifts were exchanged.

In addition to the hostess, Mrs. Thacker, those attending were Mrs. Donald Letkeman, Mrs. Lori Alexander, Mrs. Sybil Brandon, Mrs. Callie Giesecke, Mrs. Joyce Smith, Mrs. LaVoe Thacker, Mrs. Nona Long and Lula Swim.

Hanna Alexander of Lubbock spent some time with her dad and family, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Alexander during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Meredith enjoyed a Christmas Eve party in the home of their daughter and family, Sherry and Tony Rose in Matador. A Mexican food supper and lots of sweet treats were enjoyed before gifts were exchanged. Also attending were Shea Rose, Jim and Carla Meador, Matador; Sean Rose, Jeremy, Whitney, Morgan and Judson Jones of Lubbock; Randy and Holly Meredith, Wylie and John, Yancy, Daphne and Parker Meredith, Roaring Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Peacock of Odessa visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peacock, Sunday.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

Your New Year's resolutions are your last year's confessions. It is never too late, in fiction or in life, to revise. May you have the best of everything in 2006!

Mrs. Marilee Cooper of Borger visited her father, Wilburn Martin Wednesday and Thursday. Wilburn attended the Christmas celebration of Marilee and Fred Cooper and family Friday night in Borger. Joining him there were his grandchildren, Lindsay Martin of Amarillo and Cole Martin of Las Vegas, Nevada. He returned home Saturday.

Holiday guests of Wadetta and Ronald Clay were daughter and husband, Debbie and Mike Arrington of Canadian and their sons, Wade Arrington of Fort Worth, Daggett and Clay, students at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Wilburn Martin was a guest at the family Christmas Eve dinner. The families attended the candlelight services Saturday night held at the Quitaque Methodist Church.

Visiting during the Christmas holidays with M. C. and Barbara Jones were children and families, Salt and Susan Jones of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Pepper Jones and friend of Austin, Candy and Michael Kern, Holly, Steven and Ben of Plano. They also visited in Quitaque with Ann and Buck Chadwick. Joining the family at the Flomot Baptist Church Christmas morning church services was Wilburn Martin, who was a guest at their Christmas luncheon.

Visiting Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Clois Shorter were daughters and families, Christi and Dwain Milam, Emily and Haley of Petersburg and Keri and Kevin Sehon and Brian of Ropesville. Other guests at their Christmas luncheon, Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Everett Shorter and Mrs. Geneva Martin of Flomot.

Louis Shorter of Fort Worth visited his parents, Alma and Everett Shorter, Friday.

Ronnie Rogers, Richard and Tina Rogers and Jerod of Lubbock and Mr. and Mrs. Todd Washington of Abernathy visited Saturday with Mrs. B. Rogers and Donnie Rogers. Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey were Mrs. Nellie Campton of Elk City, Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones, Matthew Beezley and Ashley and Danny Eadie of Fort Worth; L.T. Starkey and Floyd T. Starkey and Sue of Ralls; Mandy and Barbara George, Emily, and Chad of Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Cypert of Lockney; Mr. and Mrs. Z.D. Starkey of Amarillo; Mrs. Nola Long of Winnewood, Oklahoma; Lola Jewel Starkey of Clyde and Mrs. Jackie Lynn Davis of Fritch.

Celebrating Christmas in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Sperry, Savannah, Blayne, Gage and Cash were Jackie and Terry Sperry of Quitaque, Scarlett and Briana Sperry, Kip and Joy Pool of Lubbock, Mrs. Christi Williams and Russ Yeates of Turkey and Kelby and Pecos Williams of Flomot.

Christmas Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill D. Washington were Connie and Coy Franks and their houseguests, Cory, Amy, Hudson, and Madison Franks, Cary Franks, Anissa Huckert of Lubbock, and Cara Franks of Flomot; Sandra and Jerry Barclay and their houseguests, Lance and Sherrilyn Barclay, Colton and Kayla of Lubbock, Cody and Amanda Barclay, Ashton and Lane of Borger and Ty and Brittany Barclay and Tylee of Matador; Tim and Dena Washington, Matt and Ashley Washington and Brazos of Roaring Springs and Lacy and Conway Clary, Caleb, Mickey and Kenzie of Matador.

Mrs. Kathy Shorter had arm surgery, Monday, Dec. 19 at the Covenant Surgical Center in Lubbock. She is doing fine.

Julie and Neal Edwards, Jaxin

and Laney visited in Matador Christmas Day with his sister and family, Tammie and Wesley Stafford of Sweetwater in the home of Mr. Stafford's mother, Mrs. Lindy Stafford. They also visited her aunt, Mrs. Carolyn Ewing and her Christmas guests, Donna and Jess Little, Morgan, Lauren and Landry of Claude, Larry and Joley Bean, Jacey and Jaley of Floydada, Brad Wilson and Blair Thacker of Lubbock.

Christmas guests of Ruth and Orville Lee were Joey and Brenda Lee of Clarendon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee and Jason Lee of Amarillo, Ernie Lee, Tom Heck, Mrs. Teresa Lee, Kellan, Micah and Kacey of Turkey, Roger and Shonda Lee of Flomot and their houseguest, Jeanne Wesley of Dallas.

Attending the Christmas Eve dinner and celebration in the home of Mrs. Marihelen Wason in Matador were Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse of Flomot and family, Leah and Derrick Cruse of Canyon, Mr. and Mrs. Keane Cruse and Reese of Turkey; Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Marricle of Snyder and family, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Holscher and Mr. and Mrs. Ian Shafer of Lubbock; son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wason, Dalton and Christina of Lubbock.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, Danielle and Fannin joined family members at the Gwinn home in Matador Friday for a pre-Christmas celebration. Those attending were Aly Gwinn, Mrs. Sarah Hurt, Emily and Annie of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holcomb of Floydada, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raetz and Charles "Chig" Gwinn of Matador.

Guests Christmas night in the home of Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse for a family dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Mark Patton, Thor, Tory, Tally and Leah of Silverton; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clifton of Cisco, Skylar Clifton of Odessa, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Smith and Cutter of Floydada, Mr. and Mrs. Brand Cruse, Branson, Baylor and Brason, Mr. and Mrs. Keane Cruse and Reese and Roegan Cruse of Turkey, Mr. and Mrs. Chancey Cruse of Clarendon, Mr. and Mrs. Chad Seward, Allison, Quaid and Macy of Goldthwaite, Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, Danielle and Fannin, Mr. and Mrs. Talon Cruse, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse and Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Cruse of Flomot.

Mrs. Janice Hughes was a guest Christmas Eve and Christmas night in Floydada of son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hughes, Tara and Reagan. Other guests Christmas Eve were Mr. and Mrs. Billy Don Hughes, Brennan and Baylee and Mrs. Marsha Blake of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Rickey Hughes and Kendal, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bennett and Ross and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bennett of Floydada.

Holiday visitors of Judy and Lynn Stark were children, Mindy Stark of Austin and U.S. Air Force Captain, Wes Stark and wife, Erin of Abilene.

Visiting New Year's holidays in the home of Linda and Travis Kendall was son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Kendall, Chancey and Connor of Midland.

Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse visited the New Year holidays in Rising Star with her mother, Mrs. Dona Browning and brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Browning.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Calvert and son, Glen Calvert were guests, Wednesday, Dec. 28 in the home of daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Mandrell and Peyton of Lubbock. Meeting her great-grandparents and great uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert and Glen for the first time was Haley Katherine Cook, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Cook of Canton, Georgia. Other guests were Alvia Joe Calvert of Dumas, Ashley and Christopher Calvert of Amarillo, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Foster, Shae Lynn Reed, Dustin Reed and Elise Pace of Lubbock.

Matador News

Mrs. Juanita Cooper visited in Amarillo from Wednesday until Sunday, December 22-25, with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ken (Kay) Dunnam and Kourtney. Christmas morning they all drove to Plainview and had Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dunnam. Juanita returned home Sunday evening. Visiting with Juanita from Monday until Wednesday was her brother, Arthur Harmon of Amarillo.

Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Jameson of Santa Fe, NM visited the New Year holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.R. "Skeet" Jameson.

Obituaries



Lola Knierim Pohl

Funeral services for Lola Knierim Pohl, 93, of Matador, were held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Matador with the Rev. Winfield Davenport and the Rev. Montie Wike officiating. Interment was in the East Mound Cemetery at Matador.

Mrs. Pohl passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2005, in Lubbock, Texas. Lola was the daughter of Charlie L. and Eva E. Chesnut Knierim, pioneers of Floyd County.

She lived in the Fairview community before moving to South Plains at the age of 15. Lola graduated from Lockney High School in 1930 and continued her education at the West Texas Teachers College in Canyon, Texas. She married Frank Pohl on May 11, 1935, at the First Baptist Church in South Plains and moved to Matador. Mrs. Pohl was an Elementary School teacher for four years in the Dougherty, Cone and Whiteflat School Systems. Mr. and Mrs. Pohl purchased Household Supply Company from Homer Sheets at Matador in March of 1946 and operated it until selling the business in 1981. She was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church in Matador where she was active in the church choir and played the organ and piano. Lola was also active in the Eastern Star and the Eternas Study Club for over 50 years.

Mrs. Pohl was preceded in death by her husband, Frank J. Pohl, on August 10, 1997. In the year 2000 she moved to the Lakeside Rehab and Care Center in Lubbock.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Howard Limmer of Snyder; two grandsons, Bryan Lee and wife Cari Limmer of Lubbock and Jayson Frank and wife Kathy Limmer of Dallas; five great-grandchildren, Griffin, Bailey, Hannah, Natalie and Allison Limmer.

Pallbearers were Ronald Bailey, Roger Vinson, Billy Osborn, Tom Hamilton, Larry Hoyle and Robin Darsey.

Memorials may be made to The First United Methodist Church of Matador, The East Mound Cemetery Association, the Motley County Library or the organization of your choice.

Kid's Praise set for January 11

Hey Kids - it's time to 'praise' again! Kids' Praise will be held at the First Baptist Church in Matador, Wednesday, January 11. All children in the community, three years old through 6th grade, are invited to Kids' Praise.

There will be songs, crafts, a Bible story, food and fun for all. Kids' Praise is a monthly event sponsored by the Women on Mission of the Church's WMU.

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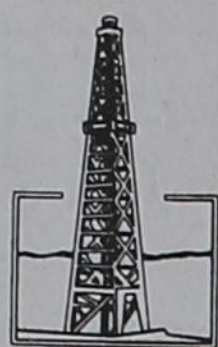
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2005 Malibus 3 - Classics 2 - LS New Body Style	2005 Grand Am Beige Color 16K Miles

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Oil & Gas Update



By Tom Musser

December 29:
FLOYD COUNTY: Completion work has begun on the Apollo Energy Operating Company Ceretha Watson Lease Well #1.

Bankers Petroleum (US) Inc., Misener Lease Well #2 is drilling ahead at 5,700 feet.

Tyner Texas Operating Company, Kenneth Brosech Lease Well #1 is being cleaned out and will begin flow testing.

Summary of Activity: During 2005 ninety-three companies expressed some interest in the Palo Duro Basin for oil and gas exploration. Of these ninety-three companies, more than forty-two companies became active in leasing for oil and gas in the six county area of Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Hale, Floyd and Motley of the Palo Duro Basin. These companies have leased most of Floyd County, approximately half of Motley and Briscoe Counties, approximately one quarter of Swisher and Hale Counties, and a little of Hall County for oil and gas. Leasing activity continues in Swisher, Briscoe and Hale Counties, and a little of Hall County for oil and gas. Leasing activity continues in Swisher, Briscoe and Hale Counties. Hall County has not received much interest nor activity. Drilling operations and well completion work has proceeded in Motley and Floyd Counties.

Gas from the Lower Pennsylvanian Bend Shale is the target of most of the companies who are interested in this six county area of the Palo Duro Basin. The Lower Pennsylvanian Bend Shale is found at depths ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 feet throughout this area of interest.

Also of interest to some of the companies is the Cisco Shale and the Wolfcamp Reef for oil production. The Cisco Shale is found at depths ranging from 6,300 to 7,600 feet. The Wolfcamp Reef is located at depths ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. There are twenty-seven well bores which are of interest through out the time frame of activity in this six county area of the Palo Duro Basin.

In Briscoe County there have been two wells re-entered and shut-in. In Floyd County there have been eighteen permitted wells, of which one well has been drilled to the Wolfcamp Reef for oil (awaiting completion), one dry hole has been drilled and plugged, four wells have been drilled and are being completed and/or awaiting completion in the Lower Pennsylvanian Bend Shale, one well is in the process of being drilled, and eleven permitted locations awaiting to be drilled. In Motley County there is one well drilled in 1975 that remains shut-in, and six permitted wells, of which four have been drilled to the Lower Pennsylvanian Bend Shale and are being evaluated and tested.

Briscoe County: Vintage Petroleum, Inc. M.J. Hamilton Lease (197044) Well #1, J.G. Adair Survey, Block Q, Section 16, Abstract-434, 3 miles northeast of Quitaque. Re-entered in 2001, remains shut-in.

Floyd County: Apollo Energy Operating Company LP W.D. Miller Lease Well #1. A.B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 24, 4 miles northeast of Floydada. Permitted on November 17, 2005, with location built.

Apollo Energy Operating Company LP W.D. Miller Lease Well #2 horizontal. A.B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 24, 4 miles northeast of Floydada. Permitted on November 17, 2005, with location built.

Apollo Energy Operating Company LP Ceretha Watson Lease Well #1, B&B Survey, Block 1, Section 4, Abstract-1720, 3 miles northeast of Dougherty is awaiting completion work.

Bankers Petroleum (US) Inc. Jones Lease Well #1. A.B&M Survey, Block 1, S/2 Section 134, Abstract-1597, 2 1/2 miles southwest of Dougherty. Permitted on November 22, 2005. Slated to be drilled in early 2006 by SimDril Rig.

Bankers Petroleum (US) Inc. Misener Lease Well #1. A.B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 18, Abstract-1417, 6 miles northeast of Floydada. Stuck and fishing at approximately 5600 feet since December 26, 2005.

BASA Resources, Inc. Maurice Campbell Lease Well #1. A.B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 50, 12 miles east of Floydada. Permitted on October 19, 2005, awaiting drilling.

BASA Resources, Inc. Foster Lease Well #1. B,S&F Survey, Block B-5, Section 13, Abstract-996, 4 1/2 miles northeast of South Plains, plugged and abandoned on September 27, 2005.

BASA Resources, Inc., Smitherman Lease Well #1. B,S&F Survey, Block D-2, S/2 Section 15, Abstract-206, 4 miles southeast of South Plains. Permitted on September 22, 2005. Location built in September of 2005 in anticipation of drilling well following the drilling of the L.N. Johnson #1. Currently the drilling of the Smitherman #1 is on hold.

Bass Petroleum, Inc. Redding 1 Lease Well #1. A,B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 21, Abstract-52, 6 miles northeast of Floydada. Permitted on October 31, 2005, awaiting drilling.

Bass Petroleum, Inc. Yeary Lease Well #1. GC&SF RR Co. Survey, Block D-2, Section 18, Abstract-1967, 9 miles east of Lockney. Permitted on August 4, 2005, awaiting drilling.

Bass Petroleum, Inc. Yeary #2 Lease Well #2. GC&SF RR Co. Survey, Block D-2, Section 19, Abstract 215 nine miles northeast of Lockney. Permitted on September 29, 2005, awaiting drilling.

Bass Petroleum, Inc. Yeary #3 Lease Well #3. EL&RR RR Co. Survey, Block D-3, Section 48, Abstract-2266, 4 miles east of Lockney. Permitted on September 29, 2005, awaiting drilling.

Bass Petroleum, Inc. Vikki Yeary Lease Well #1. A,B&M Survey, Block 1, Section 68, Abstract-1870, 3 miles east of Floydada. Permitted on October 31, 2005, awaiting drilling.

GeoSurveys Inc. Fowler Unit Well #1. GC&SF RR Co. Survey, Block G-M, Section 21, Abstract-451, 3 1/2 miles northeast of Cedar Hill. Has a rig on location and work is continuing.

Tyner Texas Operating Company Kenneth Brosech Lease Well #1. GC&SF RR Co. Survey, Block G-M, Section 32, Abstract-1650, 15 miles northeast of Floydada. On Friday, December 30, 2005, completion rig up, with additional completion work scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Tyner Texas Operating Company 4DG's Corporation Lease Well #1. EL&RR RR Co. Survey, Block D-3, Section 39, Abstract-184, 9 miles north of Floydada. Permitted on June 13, 2005, awaiting drilling.

Tyner Texas Operating Company Rushing Lease Well #1. D&PRR Co./Rushing, S.L. Survey, Block D-3, Section 112, 6 miles northeast of Floydada. Permitted on December 13, 2005, with location being built.

Motley County: Apollo Energy Operating Company LP Cox Lease Well #1. Arnold & Barnett Survey, Block T, Northwest Quarter Section 61, Abstract-13. Plans are to start building location the end of this week for a shallow (San Andres and/or Wolfcamp) Well.

Legacy Exploration, LLC D.M. Cogdell, Jr. Estate Lease Well #10-07. C&M RR Co. Survey, Block G-P, Section 7, Abstract-249, 5 1/2 miles northwest of Whiteflat. Permitted on July 29, 2005, but never drilled.

Tyner Texas Operating Company R.G. Stephens Lease Well #1. Arnold Barnett Survey, Block T, Section 62, Abstract-1475, 4 miles west of Whiteflat. Continuing to flow on test.

Vintage Petroleum Inc. Ollie Birnie Lease (073843) Well #2, The Birnie (Congl) Field Discovery Well. H&GN RR Co. Survey, Section 2, Abstract-1161, 5 miles west of Whiteflat. Remains shut-in since 1975.

Vintage Petroleum Inc. M. Bursleson Ranch #60 Lease Well #1. Matador Cattle Co. Survey, Block M, Section 60, Abstract-496, 14 1/2 miles west of Matador. On November 22, 2005, received an 180 day extension to flare gas. In the request Vintage Petroleum Inc. stated that as of November 22, 2005, NO gas has been released from this well.

Vintage Petroleum Inc. D.M. Cogdell, Jr. Estate Lease (201274) Well #10-01. C&M RR Co. Survey, Block G-P, Section 1, Abstract-246, 4 miles west of Whiteflat. Drilling completed June 13, 2003. This well has been perforated, fraced, tested and evaluated. Vintage Petroleum Inc. has not yet filed the completion paperwork and currently this well remains shut-in.

Vintage Petroleum Inc. Echols #2 Lease Well #1. C&M RR Co. Survey, Block G-P, Section 2, Abstract-1165, 5 miles west of Whiteflat. Is continuing to be flared receiving an 180 day extension to flare gas on November 22, 2005. In the request for the extension it was stated that this well had intermittently produced a total of 10mmcf of gas and was currently producing approximately 100 mcf/day of gas, with the zone of interest continuing to De-Water.

Motley County farmers looking for rains as record cotton harvest almost complete

by Earlyne Jameson

Farmers are looking for rains in January and February to make up for dry weather in November and December that helped them harvest a bumper cotton crop. Wheat farmers are ready for needed rain. Strong demand, tight supplies and open markets have the Motley County cattle industry smiling in spite of soil moisture being very short.

The first day of January 2006 came in roaring with 60 mile gusting winds and a blinding

dust storm.

We thank NWSV representatives for reporting monthly rainfall totals throughout 2005.

Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers report the total rainfall for December and total moisture for 2005: Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs, Dec. - 0.12, total 26.81; Betty Simpson, Northfield, Dec. - 0.09, 15.83; Jim Stockton, Whiteflat, Dec. 00, 24.87; John Bird, Matador, Dec. - 0.07, 19.46; and Tommie Jo Cruse, Flomot, Dec. - 00, 18.63 inches.

Crop and Weather Year-end Summary: Texas Agriculture beat the odds in 2005

by Crystal Polasek
 Texas A&M University

College Station -- Though many producers struggled with the effects of extreme weather, the state's agriculture industry persevered and made the best of 2005, said a Texas Cooperative Extension expert.

Jose Pena, Extension economist in Uvalde, said early rainfall made vegetable and crop production especially successful this year despite later drought.

"Early, above-average spring rain and low relative humidity helped produce near-record yields of most spring vegetables and some row crops," Pena said. "For example, cotton production in Southwest Texas experienced record yields under heavy irrigation."

The most significant struggle for many producers was lack of soil moisture, he said, including "a severe dry spell from April to December, with rainfall as low as 75 percent of the long-term average in a large portion of the state. As a result, crop agriculture experienced increased irrigation requirements."

Thanks to record-high energy prices, necessary irrigation also became more expensive for many producers, Pena said.

Because of the state's severe and extreme drought conditions since July Texas - along with Illinois - was one of the country's driest regions in 2005, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Dr. David Anderson, Extension livestock economist in College Station, said dry conditions were a challenge for many cattle producers in the eastern half of the state.

"Significant drought had a large impact on the hay crop and hit pastures hard," he said. "Many producers had to begin buying hay much earlier than

normal, and the hay that is available is often poor in quality.

"Of course, hurricanes impacted some producers in Southeast Texas; high fuel costs hit them hard and will continue to do so in the coming year,"

Prices have been record high over the last couple of years," he said. "It's a mixed bag for cow-calf producers. While prices have been good, drought and increasing fuel costs have increased dramatically."

Pena said gross agricultural income increased significantly because the markets were good for livestock. Increased production costs, however, will likely mean that net income will nearly match or be slightly lower than in 2004.

"In the coming year, I expect to see calf prices decline as cattle inventory expansion occurs in the U.S.," he said. "But prices should still be at relatively good levels. The opening of the Japanese market for beef is positive, even though it may take a long time to regain significant market levels."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on Dec. 11 that the U.S. will resume exporting beef to Japan. Trade was severed in 2003 when a Japanese embargo prevented U.S. beef from being sent to Japan after the state of Washington reported a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly referred to as BSE, or "mad cow" disease).

The cattle market has gradually improved since 2003, Pena said, and the future should be good for producers.

"The cattle market outlook for 2006 remains bright," he said. "The favorable market may extend into 2007 as Japan allows U.S. imports again."

"The cold weather during December 2005 will help conserve the sparse moisture left in the soil profile," he said. "It will also reduce the potential of insect and disease problems in the coming spring."

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LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Motley County Tribune Weather Jan. 5, 2006

7-Day Forecast	In-Depth Forecast	Moon Phases																																																				
<p>Thursday Mostly Sunny High: 61 Low: 29</p> <p>Friday Mostly Sunny High: 60 Low: 28</p> <p>Saturday Mostly Sunny High: 66 Low: 29</p> <p>Sunday Partly Cloudy High: 59 Low: 26</p> <p>Monday Partly Cloudy High: 55 Low: 24</p> <p>Tuesday Mostly Sunny High: 61 Low: 28</p> <p>Wednesday Partly Cloudy High: 65 Low: 32</p>	<p>Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 61°, humidity of 34% and an overnight low of 29°. The record high temperature for today is 73° set in 1956. The record low is -1° set in 1959. Friday, skies will remain mostly sunny with a high temperature of 60°.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>First</th> <th>Full</th> <th>Last</th> <th>New</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1/6</td> <td>1/14</td> <td>1/22</td> <td>1/29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	First	Full	Last	New	1/6	1/14	1/22	1/29																																												
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<p>Last Week's Local Almanac</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>79</td> <td>38</td> <td>52/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>72</td> <td>50</td> <td>52/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>64</td> <td>38</td> <td>51/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>76</td> <td>34</td> <td>51/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>70</td> <td>39</td> <td>51/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>71</td> <td>35</td> <td>51/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>71</td> <td>48</td> <td>51/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Monday	79	38	52/27	0.00"	Tuesday	72	50	52/27	0.00"	Wednesday	64	38	51/27	0.00"	Thursday	76	34	51/27	0.00"	Friday	70	39	51/27	0.00"	Saturday	71	35	51/27	0.00"	Sunday	71	48	51/27	0.00"	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Precipitation</td> <td>.....0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Normal precipitation</td> <td>.....0.14"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Departure from normal</td> <td>.....-0.14"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average temperature</td> <td>.....56.1°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average normal temperature</td> <td>.....39.1°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Departure from normal</td> <td>.....+17.0°</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Data as reported from Childress, Texas</i></p>	Precipitation0.00"	Normal precipitation0.14"	Departure from normal-0.14"	Average temperature56.1°	Average normal temperature39.1°	Departure from normal+17.0°
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<p>Weather History</p> <p>Jan. 5, 1982 - A three-day rainstorm in the San Francisco area finally came to an end. Marin County and Cruz County were drenched with up to 25 inches of rain and the Sierra Nevada Range was buried under four to eight feet of snow.</p>		<p>Sun & Moon Times</p> <p>Sunrise today7:49 a.m. Sunset tonight5:49 p.m. Moonrise today11:50 a.m. Moonset todayNo Set</p> <p>© 2006 Accessweather.com, Inc.</p>																																																				

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Thank you very much for your understanding of this necessary price increase. We appreciate every reader of the *Motley County Tribune*.

NOTICE OF MEETING
Motley County ISD to discuss AEIS Report and Math TAKS

The Motley County Independent School District will hold a public hearing on the Academic Excellence Indicator System at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19. The AEIS is an annual rating of state school districts by the student achievement on TAKS exams. This report is available over the internet at www.tea.site.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/2005/district.srch.html.

The hearing will give the public a chance to discuss the report with the district site-based decision making committee. Review copies of the report are available as well at the school office.

Discussion will also be held concerning new material to be added to the Math TAKS test at grade levels 6-10 and exit level. The Texas Education Agency is currently evaluating the content eligible to be assessed on the TAKS mathematics tests because of the refinements recently made to the secondary mathematics Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

An online survey has been developed to obtain input as to whether the new TEKS content should be assessed on TAKS mathematics tests at grades 6-10 and exit level. This review and discussion will serve as the basis for a campus recommendation on the proposed content.

2tc-2

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