

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

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Thursday, July 15, 2010

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Volume 119 Issue No. 28

4-A Tax Board discusses uses for funds

By Carol Campbell

The 4-A Tax Board of Directors met with a quorum present on July 8, 2010, at City Hall, to appoint a new member to fill a vacant seat, elect officers for 2010, conduct a financial review, and discuss uses for the 4-A Tax Funds. Harry Hamilton was in attendance to speak on a specific potential use of 4-A Tax Funds.

The five-member board consists of Ed D. Smith, president; Debra Scott, secretary; Pat Seigler, and J. D. Russell, who was absent from the meeting. Ron Bailey was appointed by the City Council to serve in the vacant seat of Mike Hackler. The group voted to keep the current officers for 2010.

Following approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Secretary Debra Scott provided the group with a financial accounting, which shows a balance of about \$111,000.00 in sales tax revenue. This tax has been accumulating since February, 2003, when the board was formed.

According to the state Comptroller's Office, 4-A sales tax collected by the city can be used to acquire land, buildings, equipment, facilities, and improvements for purposes related to:

manufacturing and industrial facilities, recycling facilities, distribution centers, small warehouse facilities; commercial development and expansion in blighted or economically depressed areas and development areas;

a general aviation business service airport that is an integral part of the industrial park;

port-related facilities to support waterborne commerce;

job creation and retention; job training; educational facilities; and maintenance and operating costs associated with projects.

The discussion revolved around the use of the funds, or if the city would be better served to move the money into the 4B Tax Fund account which provides cities with a wider range of uses because it is intended to give communities an opportunity to undertake a project for "quality of life improvements," including economic development.

However, it was discussed that if 4A Tax Fund were moved to 4B, the city may only collect a total rate of 1/2 of one percent for just one fund; whereas, currently the city collects 1/2 of one percent for both 4A and 4B.

Harry Hamilton reported to the group that while working with an absentee land owner

on a real estate sale, he recognized a unique opportunity for economic development. He encouraged the landowner to donate about 100 lots in northeast Matador to the city for an Industrial Park. The city agreed to accept the lots under the purview of Market Matador, a five-member board with City Council oversight created as a non-profit entity to promote economic development.

The lots are located south of FM94 and Harrison Street, between Nellie Street, and Buffalo and Comanche Avenues - close to needed infrastructure like water and sewer, Hamilton said.

"This is a good start," Ron Bailey said. "I'm proud of Harry for his commitment to this community," adding, "we have one full block cleared - the land is as clean as a pin." "Right now we are just getting enough money to do something," Bailey added. "Harry needs an 'atta boy' for his work in behalf of Matador."

The group decided to continue to research the possibility of adding additional lots to the current land already identified for the purposes of enlarging the area to create an area for a future industrial park.

The next meeting of the 4-A Tax Board will take place following Homecoming in September.

Fundraiser and Volunteer Appreciation night hosts large crowd



The Site Committee volunteers serve the crowd at the annual Senior Citizens fundraiser, dishing ice cream in every imaginable flavor. Most guests tried a spoon of all the flavors, then loaded up with cake, brownies, or cookies. Pictured (L to R) are: Betty Roberts, Glenda Williams, and Ray Baxter. Penny Pipkin (front) makes room for one more spoon of strawberry. photo by Carol Campbell

By Carol Campbell

On again, off again rain moved the annual fundraiser and Volunteer Appreciation ice cream and cake social inside the Senior Center Saturday, July 10, 2010. But spirits were high, and the beat goes on, courtesy of Gerald Pipkin and Friends.

The Senior Citizens Site Committee provided more than 10 freezers of ice cream with a large variety of flavors, topped off with a choice of

cookies, brownies, or cake. The group served more than 90 guests.

Kicking off the function, Senior Citizens Director Tommye Keith announced the names of home delivery volunteers who delivered 4,468 meals from October 1, 2009, to July 9, 2010. As the saying goes, "volunteers are the lifeblood" of all non-profit organizations, and the Senior Citizens volunteers go far beyond, Keith said.

Matador home delivery

volunteers are: Stan Hanesworth, Pina Sturdivant, June Moss, Judy Renfro, Joan Patton, Arlyce Manney, Joyce Campbell, Nova Dale Turner, and Bill Manney.

Roaring Springs volunteers are: Jo and Walter Trammal, Larry Hoyle, Judy Cartwright, Beetle Bailey, Bobby Klodginski, Barbara Armstrong, and Joyce Hunter.

Keith complimented the volunteers for all the hard work that is done in behalf of *continued on page 3*

Commissioner's Court reviews preliminary census numbers

MC residents protest in Open Forum

By Carol Campbell

The Motley County Commissioner's Court met July 12, 2010, in regular session, with a quorum consisting of Judge Ed D. Smith, Commissioners Franklin Jameson, Russell Alexander, and Donnie Turner. Commissioner Roy Gene Stephens, Precinct 1, was absent. Other county employees in

attendance were Sheriff Chris Spence, County Attorney Tom Edwards, County and District Clerk Kate Hurt, and County Judge-elect, Jim Meador.

Also in attendance were six residents from Flomot, consisting of Clara "B" Rogers, Donnie Rogers, Donna Degan, Mozelle Hand, Tommie Cruse, and Harvey Case.

In the first order of busi-

ness, Donnie Rogers spoke in behalf of his mother, Clara (B) Rogers, in regard to County Road 148, that is washed out in Precinct 2. "The county has had one and one-half years to fix this problem," Rogers said.

Rogers reported he had talked to James Gillespie at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and *continued on page 6*



Pictured is the property of Clara B Rogers, who cannot get off her property except by tractor. According to her daughter, Donna Degan, the rains have worsened a problem that has been in the making for one and one-half years. Mrs. Rogers and her family met with Commissioner's Court on Monday, July 12, to seek redress by the county.

City making headway on meter replacement

4-A Tax Fund Board president reports to council

By Carol Campbell

Matador City Council met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. July 8, 2010, at City Hall. Attending the meeting were Councilmen Nathan Shannon, Shane Jones, Kay Bailey and Chuck Ream; and Mayor Pat Smith, Steve Barton, City Superintendent, and Debra Scott, City Secretary. Councilman Alvin Alexander was absent.

City Superintendent Steve Barton reported that 30 meters have now been replaced. "We have a long way to go, but we are making headway," he said. Barton said the recent rains have been keeping city employees busy "keeping up the roads" and reported that the landfill looks good, in spite of the rain. "We are keeping the water pumped out," he said.

A guest of the council, Ed D. Smith, in his capacity as president of the 4-A Tax Board, reported that Ron Bailey had been appointed to take Mike Hackler's seat on the board. He

also reported that 4-A Tax Fund

Secretary Debra Scott had provided the board with a financial accounting, and that Harry Hamilton was at the 4-A Board Meeting, to discuss uses of the funds. "The board doesn't feel like we should abolish the 4A Tax Fund at this point," he reported. Also, he said, the board was in favor of paying a stipend and expenses to the "right person" to "take the lead" in finding and reporting the best uses for the fund.

In other business, Steve Barton reported that the Top Coat Project has received prices for rock and asphalt. "Thrasher Gravel Pit quoted a \$15.00 per ton for rock; and Holly Asphalt had quoted a \$1.71 per gallon price. "It will take about 10,000 yards of asphalt at a cost of about \$14-\$15,000.00 to cover all of Eubank Street and most of Campbell Street," Barton said. Mayor Smith said that TxDOT had agreed to help the city measure to get the exact square yards. The area covered will be approximately 3,000

feet long by 20 feet wide.

The council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the personnel license recently earned by Joel Guerrero. Following the session, Kay Bailey moved to raise the salary of Guerrero by \$1,200.00 a year in support of his licensure upgrade. The motion was seconded by Chuck Ream, and passed by unanimous vote.

The council also voted to pay one-half of Market Matador's advertising costs and all of the additional costs of the website for a total of \$714.00; and to pay Texas Plains Trail Region \$200.00 for marketing the city at regional events. This money will be paid out of the Hotel-Motel Occupancy tax fund, now standing at \$8,365.11, as of the end of June. The council had previously budgeted \$2,000 for the Chamber of Commerce website and other advertising costs, and have currently spent \$1,998.00.

The next City Council meeting will be held August 12, 2010, in City Hall.

Foothill Country

Connections

Community, Diversity, Art
When you have history, you have pride.

WRITING COMMUNITY

Ralph Powell, Sr. in Memoriam

Rest easy, partner

By Carol Campbell

Ralph Powell was the real deal -- his question now answered: "Will there be any horses in heaven?"

Ralph died July 7, 2010, just shy of his 74th birthday. He was born August 1, 1937, to Eugene Powell and Jessie Blanks Powell in Syracuse, Kansas. Longevity runs in Ralph's family -- his mother lived to be 100 years old. But Ralph was not so fortunate -- he lost his battle with cancer, but he was a winner in every other way imaginable, the Rev. Bill Manney said.

While Ralph was survived by only three: his wife, Marisue, a son, Ralph, Jr., and a grandson, John Thomas -- his large extended family packed the First Methodist Church on Friday, July 9, 2010, to pay their final respects to a friend, a cowboy, a kind spirit, a Christian man, a rancher, a roper, a father, a husband, a man who "liked to stir things up," a man of action, a man with a plan.

It took three preachers to send Ralph off -- each one celebrating this life well lived. Following an acappella rendition of "Because He Lives," ("... life is worth the living, just because he lives") by the Rev. Bill Manney; cowboy preacher Johnny Morris said, "I crossed his trail; saw his tracks for many years before I met him..." Johnny gave us a glimpse of the "man with a plan." And in a moving conclusion, he recited a poem by cowboy poet Ryan Rankin, "This old, old saddle my granddad made..." "Rest easy, partner," Johnny said.

Then Ron Brunson on guitar and Mary Ann Brunson on vocals performed a lively, hand-clapping rendition of *I'll Fly Away*, followed by a cowboy ballad, Ralph's favorite: "I had to bury my horse last evening; then and there I was faced with a question; will there be any horses in heaven? Will my good horse be there? Thank you, Jesus, for letting me know..." so the song goes. "We can rest assured," Ron said, "that Ralph's question is now answered -- and he is riding off on a good horse."

Cowboy preacher Leonard Cotton said he imagined the "heavens opened" for his friend Ralph Powell; and he was just a bit jealous because his pal got to choose

from the remuda first. He said he wanted to tell a few "little known facts" about Ralph.

First, he said, at his very core was a deep spiritual life. He was a charter member of Calvary Chapel of Midland, Texas. Second, Ralph went on a tour to the Holy Land with Cotton and several members of the Calvary Chapel. "We went to the top of Mount Carmel (God's vineyard), to Nazareth, to the Sea of Galilee; and we sat together where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount."

"But finally, it was my great privilege to baptize Ralph in the Jordan River," Cotton said. Getting in the Jordan River in January was "not my cup of tea," he admitted. People were waiting in line to be baptized in the Jordan River. "We were all shivering, it was very cold. But when it was our turn, Ralph and I held hands and walked into the water, and something amazing happened -- the warmth came over us in a powerful way." Ralph said, "Do you feel that?" "What is it?" And Cotton answered, "It is the warmth of Jesus Christ."

"Ralph was genuine in his faith; and genuine in his life -- the last of the "old school," he said. "He lived by the unwritten cowboy code," ending his comments with the words of a Scottish poet: "Live so as to be missed." Ralph will be sorely missed.

Finally, six strong men, dressed in jeans and starched white shirts with a single white carnation in their shirt pocket, carried Ralph, clad in denim with his spurs and gloves close by -- lying in eternal slumber in his polished Cedar casket. Somehow, it was fitting that Ralph was buried in a Cedar casket. He and Marisue have been battling the



Ominous clouds threatened, while cowboys from area ranches prepare to escort Ralph Powell, Sr. on his final horse-drawn journey to East Mound Cemetery.

photo by Carol Campbell

invasive juniper at Mott Creek Ranch for years. Perhaps it has a redeeming value after all.

Pallbearers were Jay Flowers, Terry Miller, Eric Wash, Douglas Campbell, Cotton Elliott, and Darl Walker -- six good men, six cowboys, who carefully loaded the casket on the wagon harnessed to two large dray horses, Spade and Ace, courtesy of Foster Ranch. Cowboys Rick Ferguson and Ashley Daniel from Foster Ranch drove the team. They were escorted by riders on horseback from the Four 6's Ranch, including Reggie Hatfield, Boots O'Neal, Ronald Lewis, and Phil Fox. Clay Timmons from the Pitchfork Ranch was there, as well as numerous cowboys from ranches in the Midland area where Ralph worked as a young man.

Clouds seemed to gather on Matador as the wagon began its journey to East Mound Cemetery. A misty rain cooled the humid, heavy summer air, finally bringing more rain to an already soaked land. The road to East Mound was slow, calm, and uneventful, where Ralph Amon Powell, Sr., was laid to rest. Rest easy, partner.

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FINAL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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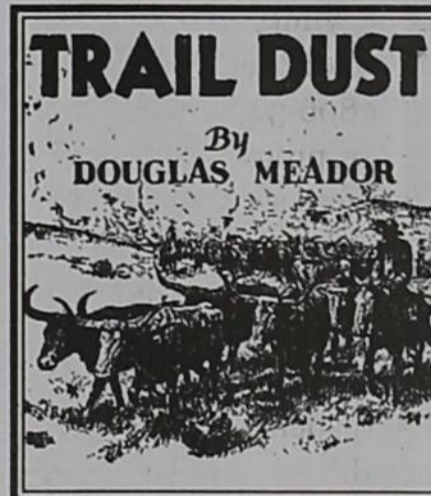


Award Winner

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Matador Tribune
July 17, 1941

Compassion provides the unfailing yeast in the loaf of happiness.

We tied our book straps to the limb of a mesquite tree and played until sundown. Later I remembered that he coughed often and that he had left his black sweater at the school house. Cold, dry wind out of the north broke up the game and each went his separate way to home and chores.

There was a light, glassy snow on the ground next morning and many pupils besides my companion were absent. His father rode to town for the doctor but was too late. He never returned to his desk.

Perhaps we shall meet beyond the strange frontier of life, hang our harps in a tree, and with diamond and ruby taws, finish our game on the golden sands of eternity.

Laughing his way past the guards of success my friend had earned and lost several fortunes with the ease of a true sportsman who shoots and misses without excuse. It was his private theory that three successive failures were more valuable than achievement.

RETRO NEWS

Matador Tribune
July 17, 1941

Crafty Coyote Is Caught By Trapper

A three-footed coyote that has been known to have killed chickens and sheep for the past three years, became the victim of Federal Trapper H. W. Fite's traps last week on the Gerald Waybourn Ranch northeast of Matador.

Mate to the coyote was trapped several weeks ago and the animal had become so crafty that she would jump wire fences instead of passing thru usual trails. Mr. Fite explained that his work was directed to catch wolves of this type, unknown by farmers and ranchers to be destructive to fowls and domestic animals.

Mr. Fite is moving his trapping activities into the Northfield community this week.

To realize the value of...

To realize the value of a sister/brother: Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years: Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years: Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year: Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months: Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month: Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week: Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute: Ask a person who has

missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one-second: Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family member: LOSE ONE.

The origin of this letter is unknown, but it brings good luck to everyone who passes it on.

Remember... Hold on tight to the ones you love!

Do not keep this letter. Send it to friends and family to whom you wish good luck

Peace, love and prosperity to all!

From Wes Campbell

**Shop
in
Motley County**

Fundraiser and Volunteer Appreciation night hosts large crowd

continued from page one

the Center; and each volunteer received a flashlight key ring engraved with "Volunteer - Motley County Senior Citizens."

There are other people in the community besides meal delivery volunteers that help make the Center run smooth, Keith said: Rodney Williams, Jim Watson, Bobby Williams, Geneva Wilson, Nell Berryman, Roger Evans, and Site Committee volunteers Harold Gordon and Ronnie Vandiver, just to name a few.

Someone announced that the ice cream was melting, and the crowd fell in line, bowls in hand. The Site Committee volunteers on ice cream brigade were: Elaine Hart, Pat Warren, Janie Campbell, Vee Gordon, Judy Renfro, Arlyce Manney, Ray Baxter, Glenda Williams, and Raynita Murphy.

While volunteers were dishing the ice cream, local talent Steve Smith sang several solo numbers. Then Penni Keltz took the microphone, introducing the musicians and vocal performers. And the music didn't disappoint with a full hour of country western, folk music, ballads, and even a toe tapping hymn.

Penni Keltz, Sharon VanHoose, and Kim Fletcher, on

vocals, kept the rhythm going, kicking the performance off with "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." A new addition to the group this year was singer Steve Burrus. Steve is working at Thacker Jewelry in Roaring Springs. Currently, he and his wife and their two 7-month old Bichon pups live in Lubbock. The well-behaved pups were part of the audience, along with his wife, Kelly.

Steve sang "Silver Wings," "Lone Star Beer," "If We Make It Through December," and "Working Man's Blues." He was accompanied by Billy Donaldson on guitar, Brandt Beardon on drums, Kelly Keltz on base guitar, Butch Castner on electric guitar; and of course, Matador home-grown talent, Gerald Pipkin, on keyboard.

Brandt Beardon was outstanding on drums, setting the beat, keeping the time, while members of the band found their voice for featured solo performances.

Sharon VanHoose sang "Walking After Midnight;" Billy Donaldson soloed with "Some Broken Hearts Never Mend;" husband and wife team Penni and Kelly Keltz, sang "Heart to Heart Talk" and Kelly soloed with "Pride."

Gerald is known for his Jerry Lee Lewis routine - his fingers flying up and down the keyboard while he moves both feet in rhythm to the beat. He brought the house down accompanying the group with "Girls Get Prettier at Closing Time" -- they were rewarded with a standing ovation.

This was a special evening, an annual event that the citizens of Matador look forward to every summer. And don't forget to thank the "volunteer" musicians, Tommye Keith said. This is the fourth year that this group has performed in Matador in behalf of the Senior Citizen Center.

But according to Gerald Pipkin, it is a labor of love. "We all have a love for Motley County; and we love to perform," he said. "We do what we can to support the annual fundraiser for the center, which gives us an excuse to make music."

The group made at least six practice sessions prior to the performance. "We rehearse at the former flower shop at the funeral home," Gerald said. "I would really like to recognize Pat Seigler for letting us use his space and electricity for our practice sessions - 'attaboy' Pat, and thanks."

And the 1st Place Winner Is. . .



"Stevie" the Wonder Dog, owned by Jaylee Flowers of Roaring Springs, won 1st Place in the Best Dressed Dog category, sporting a camouflage vest, complete with a toy gun, and a little Army hat. photo by Carol Campbell

The Awakening

July 31, 2010
Free Hot Dogs @ 5:30 pm
Service @ 6:30 pm
Roaring Springs Old Settlers Grounds

A youth conference put together by a group of believers from all different churches to unite the body of Christ and awaken this region. It is geared toward youth, but everyone is welcome.

"...MAY THEY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND HAVE LOVED THEM AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME." John 17:23

www.Facebook.com/TheAwakeningWestTX
For more information please contact Jennifer Brady (806) 269-6503

HACKBERRYHAPPENINGS

BY CARLA MEADOR, MARKETING DIRECTOR

OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES AVAILABLE SOON!

Hackberry is proud to announce that we are now state registered as a physical and occupational therapy facility and certified to offer outpatient services. We are very proud of this accomplishment and hope this will benefit the residents of Motley County and this area. Of course, with any new service, it will take a little time to get things up and operating, but we have tentatively set August 1 as the start-up date.

Therapy services are dedicated to the needs of persons affected by stroke, arthritis, hip fracture, amputation, cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, hip or knee joint replacements, complicated courses of recovery from surgery or illness and general debilitation.

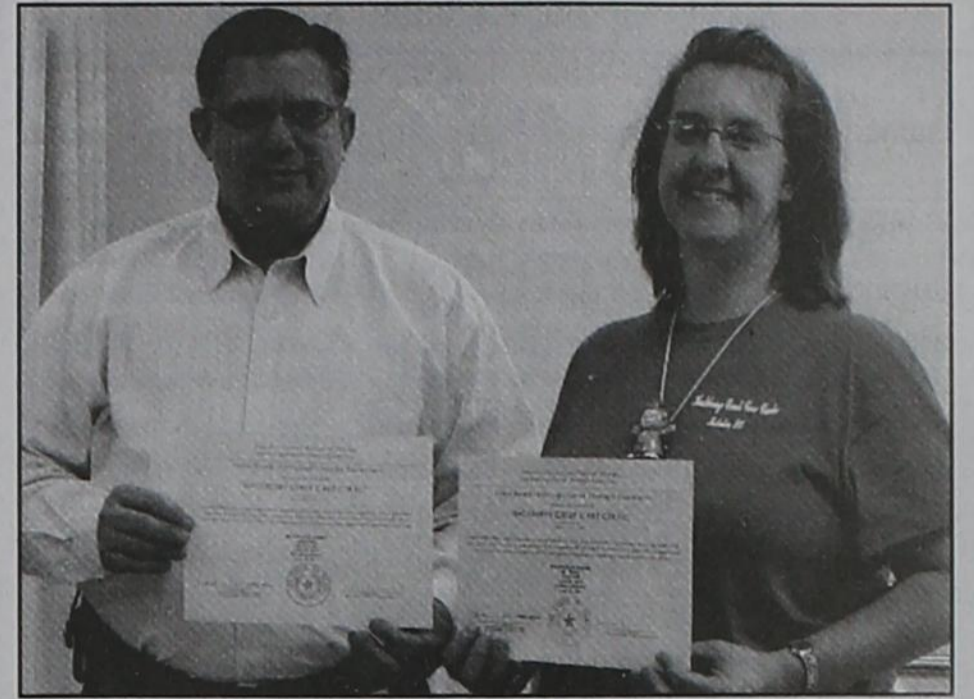
Physical therapy includes joint mobilization, therapeutic exercise, orthopedic rehab, home evaluations, transfer and mobility. Rehabilitation services will include head, neck and spine, shoulder, elbow and wrist, knee, balance, sports performance and injury, ankle and foot rehab, hip, women's health and wound care.

Occupational Therapy includes safety education, home evaluations, home living skills, hand rehab, activity of daily living, cognitive perceptual retraining, transfer and mobility retraining, utilization of adaptive equipment and upper extremity therapeutic exercise.

To be able to take advantage of these services, those with the need for outpatient therapy must have a physician's orders, insurance information and identification. For more information please call John Vunk, Administrator, or Buffy Boger, Rehab Director, at 806-347-2942.

"We are proud to be able to offer these services to this area, and hope it will be a great benefit to the residents," said Mr. Vunk. "We are one of the few Care Center's to offer these outpatient services," he continued.

We would also like to remind area residents of our outpatient lab services. Blood



- Hackberry Creek Care Center Administrator, John Vunk, is pictured here with Rehab Director, Buffy Boger, displaying the state certificates for outpatient therapy. Physical and Occupational therapy will be available at the Center on an outpatient basis beginning August 1.

lab services are available on Thursday mornings. Call

Cindy Dubois, DON, or Amy Cruz, ADON, 347-2942, for more information.

SENIOR HEALTH TIPS SLEEP TIPS FOR THE ELDERLY

(continued from last week's column)

Last week we talked about how essential good sleep is to your physical health and well-being and presented several tips on how to improve sleep quality. We will continue this week with a few more tips for a good night's sleep.

To nap or not to nap - what is the answer?

If you don't feel fully alert during the day, a nap may be just what you need. For many people, taking a brief nap can provide the needed energy to perform fully for the rest of the day. Experiment with napping to see if it helps you.

Some tips for good napping:

* Short - Make sure your nap is only 15-30 minutes. You may feel groggy and unable to concentrate after a longer nap.

* Early - Nap early in the afternoon. Napping too late in the day may disrupt your nighttime sleep.

* Comfortable - Try to nap in a comfortable environment preferably with limited light and noise.

How can the foods you eat close to bedtime disturb your sleep?

To promote good sleep, pay particular attention to your

pre-bedtime diet.

* Limit caffeine late in the day

* Avoid alcohol before bedtime

* Satisfy your hunger prior to bed

* Avoid big meals or spicy foods just before bedtime

* Minimize liquid intake before sleep

Can lack of exercise affect your sleep?

A life without exercise can make you feel sleepy all of the time, or not tired at all. Exercise releases chemicals in your body that promote more restful sleep. Even something as simple as a daily walk can do wonders for your sleep regularity. Be sure to exercise early in the day. Exercise too late in the day can be stimulating, so plan to be active at least six hours before retiring.

Adding exercise to your life does not necessarily mean signing up for a gym membership. There are countless activities you can do to increase strength, burn calories and prepare yourself for a good night's sleep at the end of the day. Swim. Dance. Take up lawn bowling. Golf. Garden. Cycle or run.

If you have mobility issues, you can exercise from one position, either standing, sitting or lying down.

Stress and anxiety can also easily get in the way of a good night's sleep. Everyone has worries and lists of things to do, but it is important to teach yourself to let go of these thoughts when it's time to sleep.

A shopping trip out of town may cost you your town

"STANDING ON THE PROMISES"



While He was on this earth our Lord made us several promises and one of them was: "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10).

There is a promise. Yes, we are alive but are we living the abundant life? Remember, it is promised to us. To help answer the question here are some suggestions that might help.

Let's begin by putting the Beatitudes to work in our lives. In Matthew 5:1-12 we find successful living principles for all ages.

From God's Word learn about our Savior and His will for our lives.

We have been created for a purpose. Our purpose is revealed to us in the Bible.

Let's admit that this life has its burdens. Job 14:1 tells us of shortage of days and filled with troubles.

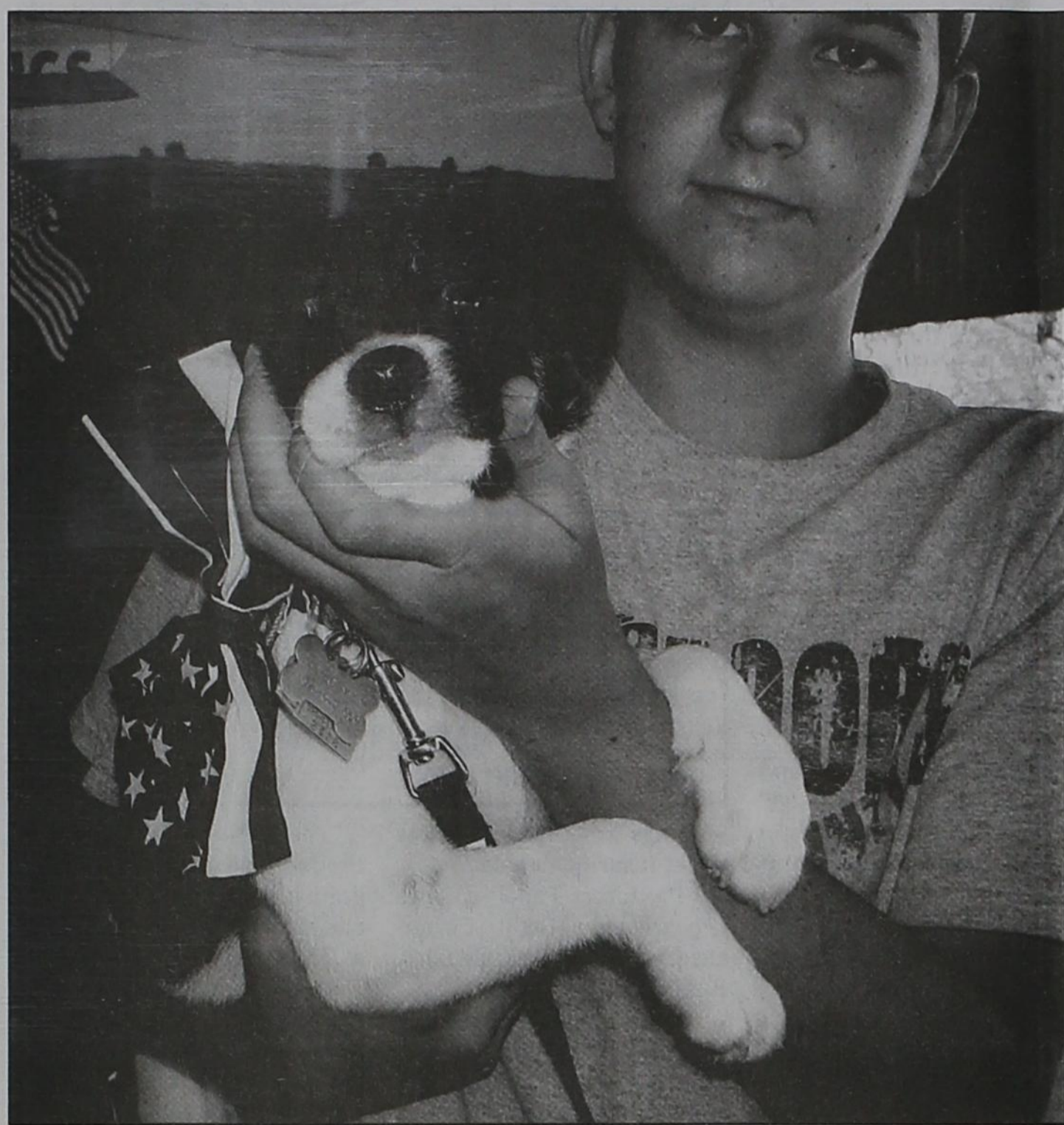
Acknowledge that God is faithful when He has promised that "all things work together for the good of them who love the Lord," Romans 8: 28.

Why not just accept what Jesus promised? The abundant life in John 10:10.

There are many promises in the Bible. We have touched only one of them. Let's develop an attitude based on the promise and live for Jesus.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.
BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

3rd Place Best Dressed



"Zoey" shown with owner and pal Jonah Meredith, received a 3rd Place ribbon in Best Dressed category at the Dog Show on July 3. Jonah is the grandson of Joyce and Joe Meredith, Roaring Springs. photo by Carol Campbell



August 26-28 Old Settlers' Reunion
Roaring Springs

**First National
Bank
of Floydada**
STRENGTH
5 Star Superior Rating by
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IRAs, Agricultural, Commercial, Consumer
Loans, Home Loans, Real Estate Loans, 24 Hour
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"Helping you change things for the better"

**FIRST
NATIONAL BANK
OF FLOYDADA**

Member F.D.I.C.



Commissioner's Court reviews preliminary census numbers

*MC residents protest in Open Forum
continued from page one*

they have developed a diversion plan to re-direct the water to a canyon that is close to the property. This plan is estimated to cost \$35,000 to \$50,000. NRCS would pay 60 percent of the cost, he said. Rogers asked the county to come up with \$10,000; and for landowner Harvey Case to provide \$10,000 to fulfill the commitment made by NRCS. According to Mr. Rogers, Harvey Case diverted the water from his land, creating a large chasm that cut the road in half. He distributed photographs for the court, showing a large eroded canyon, cutting Ms. Roger's home off from the road.

When Judge Smith asked Mr. Case if he had agreed to provide money for the cost of the diversion plan, he replied, "I have not." Mr. Case said that water had been diverted onto his land by landowner Seab Washington. "Seab cut a dike and it came off on me. This is not all my fault," Case said.

"It needs to be fixed," Donna Degan said. Mrs. Degan is the daughter of Mrs. Rogers. She said that currently the only way her mother can get to doctor's appointments is to ride by tractor to the main road. Her home is completely cut off, she said. "Mamma needed therapy, and the therapist could not get to her house," she said. "We can't get to her house, except by tractor. We have complained for two years, and nothing has been done. At the least, we need a temporary road graded to her house," she said.

Commissioner Turner said he would be glad to grade a temporary road to her house, as soon as the rain stopped and the fields were dried out enough to get a grader onto the property. "It was an act of God that it got washed out," Commissioner Turner said.

In a letter to Commissioner Turner, James Gillespie, representing NRCS, attached a "bill of materials" for the design. "The entire design cannot be provided unless we are actively involved in the construction effort," he wrote. "If you decide to pursue construction then we will gladly provide any needed assistance."

"The court would be reluctant to spend \$10,000 on FM148 unless it is a permanent fix," Judge Smith added. "We need to see if NRCS will release the plan for this repair to the court; perhaps meet with us next court session," Judge Smith said, adding, "and in the meantime, Commissioner Turner will make a temporary road for access."

Judge Smith reported preliminary census numbers to the court, showing Motley County lost 144 individuals since 2000. The total census for Motley County is 1,282

with Matador at 668, Roaring Springs at 236 individuals, and the county area at 378 people. These numbers are as of July, 2009. The actual 2010 Census numbers should be released about February, 2011, and should be very close to the numbers for 2009, he said.

Additionally, redistricting after the 2010 census, which in the past has been handled by South Plains Council of Governments, will now have

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to be handled by the county. Judge Smith said he had received letters from two law firms interested in presenting a proposal to Motley County regarding a redistricting plan for 2011.

"We are required by Federal and State law to reapportion precincts based on the 2010 Census," Judge Smith said. For informational purposes only, the judge reported an example of the proposals he is now receiving from law firms. A proposal from the law offices of Curtis A. Parrish, Lubbock, said "an hourly rate of \$250.00 for attorney time, each to be billed in quarter hour increments; expenses will be billed at cost; the firm will bill the County on September 1, 2010, for a \$5,000 retainer. The fee for the demographic studies necessary to determine whether the County is legally required to redistrict is covered by the retainer." No action was taken on this agenda item.

In other business, following a presentation by Luke Ford, The Financial Group of the Southwest, and George Webb, regional vice president of Security Benefit, the court voted unanimously to allow the company to speak to county employees and talk to the County Treasurer about a Motley County 457 Deferred Compensation plan that will provide retirement funds through investment options. "There is no cost to the county to participate or to maintain these funds," Ford said. The cost to an individual to participate would be one percent of an employee's salary per year.

Michael Johnson, Project Engineer, for Cross Texas Transmission, provided an update to the court on proposed transmission lines in Motley County and the surrounding area. Johnson said that these are "potential" routes that could be built.

"Preferred routes" will be filed with PUC on July 28, 2010, at which point the county judge and affected landowners (about 800) will receive a packet with the route descriptions. The full plan is so large that only one copy will be provided to interested landowners, and it will be placed in the Motley County Library, he said.

Tax Assessor-Collector Elaine Hart reported to the court that she will be collecting taxes for Valley ISD, absorbing 33 accounts. "I'm going to start taking Valley School District taxes on land that comes into our county," Hart said. These taxes were previously collected by the school district.

In addition, Hart provided the court with the delinquent tax roll, taxes still due as of the July 1, 2010. Currently, delinquent taxes were about \$18,900.00, which according to Hart, is fairly typical for this time of year.

Further, the Commissioner's Court "tabled indefinitely" the roof repair proposal made by Rick Collett Roofing last month. "During this last rain, we didn't have any roof leakage," Judge Smith said. "We have a federal grant that we have applied for to get the windows resealed. If we are successful with this grant, and can get the windows resealed, we may be okay."

Judge Smith submitted a proposed 2010/2011 Budget Calendar, with the first budget workshop scheduled for July 16; the second workshop set for July 23, and a Public Hearing to adopt the budget set for August 10, 2010. "If taxes are not increased, we can also approve the effective tax rate at that time," Smith said.

"If there is intent to increase taxes, a recorded vote must be taken and a notice published in the newspaper," he said, followed by two tax rate hearings.

In an Information Briefing, Judge Smith reported to the court his recent attendance at the Rolling Plains Organization of Rural Transportation held in Childress. This consortium of counties represents four Councils of Governments and 13 counties. "This group is trying to become more influential," Smith said - "fighting for our rights to have our roads fixed, to have more political clout."

TxDOT has put the roadside park issue on hold, he said. "All three of our parks have historical markers," Smith said. "If eliminated, this land would go back to the landowners."

"They also reported that they are putting more herbicides on the roads instead of mowing to the fence lines. They will only go two-shredder widths wide on each side of the pavement," he said.

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Composting worth boasting about

Experts: Composting saves landfill space; prevents erosion, pollution

SAN ANTONIO - While composting isn't the sexiest part of landscaping, there are definite economic and environmental advantages to doing it, said Texas AgriLife Extension Service and other experts.

"Making your own backyard compost bin or using commercially produced compost reduces landfill use and waste transportation costs," said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension agent for horticulture in Bexar County. "It also helps preserve soil moisture, which is especially important during a drought, along with helping prevent soil erosion."

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the state's residents use an estimated 15 million cubic yards in landfill space and pay about \$150 million in landfill costs each year. The commission also estimates that more than 5 million tons of yard trimmings and other organic materials are tossed into the state's landfills annually.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than one-quarter of the nation's municipal waste is organic material that could be used for composting.

Composting provides environmental benefits across the board relating to air, water and soil quality, said Mike Lindner, team leader for pollution prevention and education for the environmental quality commission.

"Healthy soil is more likely to support plant life and that means less need for fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides that may run off into the water table," Lindner said. "And recycling organic material instead of throwing it out means fewer trips to the landfill by garbage trucks, saving gas and creating less pollution."

"Green" and "brown" organic waste materials, including grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, vegetable and fruit scraps, even coffee grounds, can be used to make compost, Rodriguez said.

"It's pretty easy to start a compost pile in your backyard," he said. "All you really

need is the raw material and a shovel or pitchfork, garden hose and a compost bin, he said. "The bin holding the composting material can be wire or plastic, or a you can just spread out sheet of burlap or a tarp and start a compost pile on that."

Rodriguez is such a proponent of composting that recently he held the first statewide Master Gardener "specialist" training on this subject in San Antonio.

"Master Gardeners belong to volunteer horticulture programs throughout the state administered by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office in their respective counties," he explained.

Rodriguez said the three-day training was attended by 23 Texas Master Gardeners representing Bexar, Blanco, Collin, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hayes, Hidalgo, Kerr, Liberty, Parker, Tarrant, Taylor and Travis counties. Along with receiving instruction on topics including composting basics, building a composting bin, soil biology, vermiculture (composting using worms) and biosolids, the group took a tour of the New Earth composting facility in eastern Bexar County, one of the largest single-site composting facilities in the U.S.

"This training gave us the expertise to go back into our respective counties and communities to educate people on the use of composting and making a backyard compost bin or pile, or at least for people to buy compost for landscape nutrition, water conservation and soil preservation," said Mary Hoffer, a six-year Master Gardener from Collin County who took the training.

"We recycle for beneficial reuse more than 1 million pounds of organic material every day," said Clayton Leonard, president of New Earth Inc., which also has a facility in the Houston area. "Adding organic matter to soil also helps with plant disease suppression in addition to providing plant, flower and shrub nutrition."

Leonard said container growers have told him they

benefit from adding compost to their regular potting soils and that homeowners also benefit from using it as a top-dressing for grass or as a supplement to flower and shrub bedding.

While there are many private commercial composting operations in the state, some Texas cities have established municipal composting operations to help address landfill issues and generate income. Austin, McAllen, Texarkana, Plano, Denton and other towns collect and process organic materials from which they produce compost to sell commercially. Collectively, this means hundreds of thousands of dollars of savings in landfill costs combined with hundreds of thousands of dollars of income generated by these municipalities annually, according to operational data.

"We take in organic vegetative materials from member towns of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Richardson and Plano and turn that feedstock into compost at our facility in Melissa," said Sherrian Jones, division manager for composting operations for the city of Plano.

Jones, whose facility is built on North Texas Municipal Water District property, said diverting such materials from landfills for use as a soil amendment helps ensure water quality, including reducing instances of algae bloom in the municipal water treatment facilities, she added.

Jones said each year the Melissa operation takes in more than 250,000 cubic yards of organic feedstock and sells more than 100,000 cubic yards of compost under the brand name Texas Pure.

"The most important thing about using soil mixed with compost is that it makes it possible to garden in (many parts of) Texas," added Jones, also a Master Gardener.

For a free downloadable guide, go to <http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/landscape/compost/>. Additional free downloadable information can be found by going to <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us>

The Backroad Librarian

Keeping rural libraries vital requires keeping them free of charge and pushing for open access to materials. Libraries are people-centers, not warehouses for books.

By Marcel LaFlamme

In 2009, voters in communities of fewer than 10,000 people approved 85% of the library operating referenda that came up for a vote, as well as 55% of the building referenda. Meanwhile, rural communities like Seldovia, Alaska, (pop. 241) and Capitán, New Mexico, (pop. 1510) are operating municipal libraries staffed entirely by volunteers. The fact that rural communities across the country continue to support their libraries, even in these grim economic times, speaks to the esteem rural communities hold for these places. But for libraries to maintain this kind of loyalty, they have to be truly relevant. They must position themselves as platforms for the civic activism and engagement that are needed to revitalize rural America. Here are five ways they can do it.

Creating public space.

When the residents of Moab, Utah, were asked to describe their vision for a new local library, they said they wanted it to serve as the town's living room. Even in an era where e-books and streaming video can be downloaded anywhere, library users continue to emphasize the importance of libraries as places to gather and interact. Here in Independence, Kansas, where I've been the community college librarian, we started hosting the college literary guild's open mic nights in the library, which brought in upwards of thirty students and community members on any given Friday. I still think of the ear-splitting set played by local hardcore band Texas Instruments as one of the highlights of my directorship.

Promoting information literacy.

In days of yore, you went to the library to find information on a topic; today, you type a few keywords into Google and you're faced with a billion results. So research instruction, at both public

and academic libraries, has focused in on teaching patrons how to sift through and evaluate information, whether it's from the Encyclopaedia Britannica or somebody's MySpace page. Librarians call this information literacy, a set of skills that employers increasingly consider essential. A 2003 study from the University of Maryland found that perceptions (and misperceptions) about the Iraq War varied significantly according to the respondent's primary news source. For rural libraries, promoting information literacy also means promoting reasoned political investigation.

Embracing open access.

The basic business model for scholarly publishing is crazy: professors write journal articles and review the work of other scholars (gratis, mind you), and then academic libraries buy those same articles back from publishers for thousands of dollars in subscription fees. The open access movement aims to do things differently. Trinity University's Diane Graves does a nice job explaining why that's important. Most rural community college libraries can't afford a subscription to science journals like Nature, but we can connect our students and faculty members to scholarly content through open access initiatives like the Public Library of Science. Open access assumes that you shouldn't need a Harvard-sized library budget to read the work of Harvard researchers.

Toeing the line on "free."

About a year ago, the Dallas Public Library raised eyebrows across the library world by launching a (now-defunct) program called StreetSmart Express, in which patrons could pay \$5 for premium access to high-demand titles with long waiting lists. You can't fault Dallas for wanting to be entrepreneurial, especially in the face

of extreme budget cuts proposed by Mayor Tom Leppert. But public libraries must not dilute their public service by offering preferential service to patrons with extra money. As blogger Alison Circle observed, "The basic premise of libraries is carved in stone over many Carnegie public libraries: open to all. Do you get more openness for \$5?"

Remembering that it's the people, not the stuff.

One of the candidates to replace me as Independence Community College's library director said it better than I could have: "Without the human factor, all we are is warehouses for books." Of course, the content of our collections is important, but it is with flexible, imaginative, and locally relevant service that libraries truly make their mark. We need young, highly trained information professionals who are drawn to the challenges of rural librarianship. We also need forward-thinking library boards and community college trustees who can balance the demands of fiscal discipline with a willingness to dream and dream big.

There's no one way for rural libraries to fulfill their promise. Some will consolidate services at the county or regional level, while others will continue to maintain a footprint on Main Street. Some libraries will actively position themselves as agents of social and economic development, while others will hew to a more traditional definition of library service. And that's a good thing. In fact, it is precisely this obstinate localism, this exuberant, country-fried messiness that makes rural America strong.

Marcel LaFlamme has been the library director of Independence Community College, Independence, Kansas since 2008. This fall he begins a doctoral program in anthropology at Rice University in Houston.

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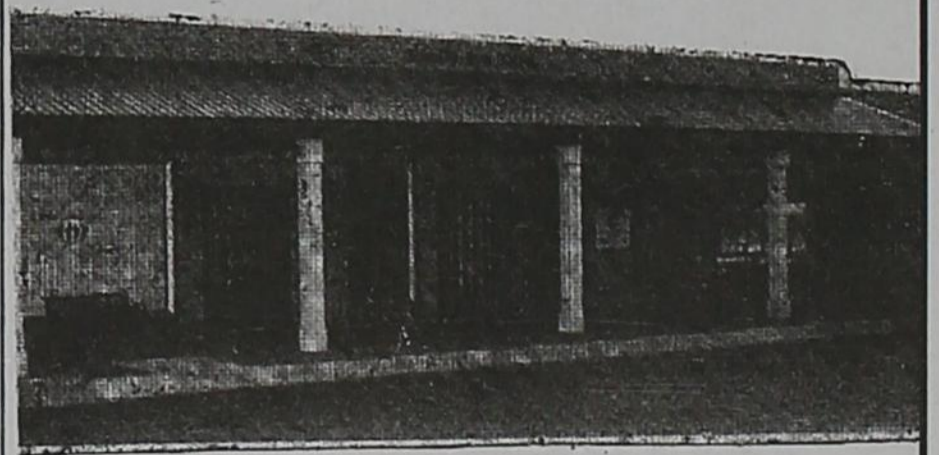
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EVENTS CALENDAR

July
 14 Hospital Board 7am
 15 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm
 20 Matador Lions Lions
 20-22 - District 3 Jr. Leadership Lab
 24-31 - State 4-H Horse Show
 28 Science Spectrum will present "Combustion"
 Library Annex, 10:00 a.m.

August
 2 Two-A-Days begins 7-9 am
 3 Matador Lions
 5 RS Lions 1st Thurs
 6 12:00 am Midnight Madness
 6-7 Shooting Sports Instructor Training
 9 Comm CT
 9 RS City Council
 10 RSCV
 11 Hospital Bd, 7am
 11 State Recordbook Judging
 12 M City Council
 12 Matador Chapter of the Eastern Star,
 Floydada. Meal, 6:30pm meeting, 7:30 pm
 13-14 Motley County Jr. Rodeo
 17 Mat Lions
 19 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm 3rd Thurs
 19 Motley 4-H Club signup day - 5pm
 21 Foothills Saturday Night in Downtown
 Matador
 26-28 Old Settler, Roaring Springs
 28 Hico Classic, Motley County Vs. Ira 4 pm,
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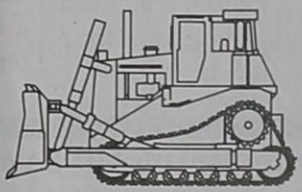
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