

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

"VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS"

50¢

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

ESTABLISHED 1891

ISSUE NO. 11

Motley County School in jeopardy if property tax values don't increase

Motley County schools are in jeopardy if the county property tax values don't increase. School funding is based on local values. The state funds contribute 34% and the local tax base must pick up the rest of the tab to operate the school.

Motley County ISD Superintendent, Rick Copp, said that if the property values are not raised the school will lose funding and could be forced to discontinue 2-3 positions and programs.

"The current property values do not allow enough money to fund next year," Mr. Copp explained. "We must know an estimate by April 1."

Motley County school enters a new year April 7. From that date decisions about personnel and programs have to be made depending on the funding available. "We have 45 days from the last day of school to let personnel know if they have a job," Mr. Copp said.

"If three positions are cut, programs will be cut, and we must have core curriculum to keep funding. If there is not enough funding, the school cannot remain open," Mr. Copp explained.

According to the Comptroller of Public Accounts' Property Tax Division 2004 School District Summary worksheet for Motley County ISD, single family residences' local tax roll value is at \$9,984,034. Mr. Copp explained that single family residence values need to go up about 14%.

According to the summary Rural Real property value is at 34,194,536. This must increase by 9% to get the local value up to State values. Rural Real is ranch and farm land.

Total taxable value must increase from 59,034,708 to 63,509,980 to assure funding for the school.

"We cut back a lot for this school year," Mr. Copp explained. "There are few areas where we could cut back more, programs such as Home Economics or Ag would have to be cut if property values don't increase," he continued.

Mr. Copp explained that there are currently 38 Motley County students attending

school in Patton Springs and 14 attending school at Valley. The school receives \$5,500 for each student. If these students attended Motley County schools this would increase funding by \$286,000.

"We have a lot to offer at Motley County ISD and we are proud of our facilities, the faculty, programs, and students," Mr. Copp said. "We would welcome any student into our school with open arms. Our main objective at MC ISD is to give the student every opportunity to learn and participate in various programs to prepare them for college and their future."

Motley County School Board members, David Stafford, Douglas Campbell, Pat Smith, Tina Brooks and Shonda Elliott, as well as Superintendent Rick Copp and Principal Marilynn Hicks met with Motley County Commissioners Monday, March 14, to express their concerns regarding property values.

Appraisal board member, C.W. Moore, joined Douglas Campbell and Commissioner Donnie Turner, who are also appraisal board members, at the meeting to discuss the matter.

Judge Ed D. Smith, a former employee at the Lubbock Appraisal office, explained that the Chief Appraiser is not controlled by the County and does not work for the county.

Chief Appraiser, Brenda Osborn, works under the Appraisal District Board. The board hires the Appraiser, but does not tell the Appraiser what to do regarding the property values, however does have the authority to oversee the operation of the office of the Appraisal District.

The appraisal board consists of a member from each entity, Donnie Turner from the County; Douglas Campbell represents the School Board; C.W. Moore, the Hospital District;

Charles Ream, the City of Matador; and Ken Abbott, the City of Roaring Springs.

Judge Smith suggested the

possibility of doing a complete new appraisal for Motley County. He explained that he has talked with legal council and tax attorneys concerning this matter.

Judge Smith said that properties with homestead can be raised by 5% and anything else can be raised to market value. He explained that it is hard to determine value depreciation, but feels that the appraisal should be at 100% of market value.

Mrs. Osborn said that a new appraisal probably does need to be done for Motley County. "We want to make sure that everything is listed properly," she said. "There may possibly be a new structure in the country, such as a barn or workshop that I don't know about."

Mrs. Osborn explained that property values are based on market value/sales, income of property, or cost to replace as is. Each year a representative from the state comes to the County and spends one or two days getting sales information from deed records. Sometimes houses are picked randomly by the state representative to examine for appraisal.

"A property's market value is the price for which it would sell when both buyer and seller seek the best price and neither is under pressure to buy or sell. Land used for farming and ranching can be valued on its capacity to produce crops or livestock instead of its market value," Mrs. Osborn said.

Osborn explained that the system is set up with local taxing units, including the school districts, counties, cities and special districts deciding how much money they must spend to provide public services. Property tax rates are set according to taxing unit budgets. School districts must rely on the local property tax, in addition to state and federal funds.

A division of the State Comptroller's office conducts an annual Property Value Study (PVS) for each school district for state funding purposes. The

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New Motley County Residents welcomed by Chamber of Commerce

Motley County Chamber of Commerce President, Annette Hollinsworth, pictured third from left, and other Chamber members welcomed new residents at last Tuesday's meeting with welcome gifts and refreshments. New residents are pictured from left Rita Day, R.J. Withrow, Mrs. Hollinsworth, Dwayne Day, Jamie Huddleson, and Coach Brad Rainer; (front, l-r) Savanna Day, Conrad Day, Katrina, Savannah and Trey Lopez.

Parents ask City for provisions to ordinance

Parents of 4-H members met with Matador City Council Thursday, March 10, to express their concerns regarding the City's ordinances.

J.D. Russell, representing the Motley County Livestock Association, spoke for the group and expressed their concerns about livestock project animals and the new City Ordinance #020505.

The Ordinance, adopted January 13, 2005, is an ordinance regulating animals within the corporate city limits of the City of Matador; declaring certain things to be public nuisances.

Mr. Russell said the group understands the city's concerns with public health, etc., but are concerned about where 4-H members will keep their project animals to prepare for the annual Livestock Show. Some students have kept their show animals, including hogs, goats, lambs and rabbits, in their backyards due to the fact that they don't own land outside of city limits or have any other location available to house the animals.

Mr. Russell explained that the Motley County FFA organization owns land west of town where FFA Show participants keep and care for their animals, but the location is not available for 4-H members. The 4-H organization does not own land.

The parents were also concerned with the ordinance regarding leaving the show animals at the Show Barn during and prior to the Stock Show.

Mr. Russell explained that show participants must obtain their animals in November to show in the February/March Show. He explained that all animals are supervised by the County Agent and FFA Advisor and are maintained in a clean environment.

The group's main concern was that some students may not be able to participate in the Stock Show if they had no place to raise their animals. If show participants are lost the annual

show would be in jeopardy of discontinuing.

In response, Mayor Westbrook explained that the actual Livestock Ordinance was adopted by the City in 1972. The original ordinance states that no hogs will be allowed inside city limits. He explained that the newly adopted ordinance is mainly concerning dogs.

Mr. Russell explained that the group wanted to request that the City make amendments to the ordinance for 4-H and FFA animals. He said that the Livestock Association will work with the City for the best possible solution. He continued to explain that the group had discussed a possible 5-month window to the ordinance, allowing students time to raise their animals for the Show.

Mayor Westbrook and Council explained that some locations inside City limits may be okay for animals to be raised in backyards, but there are other locations that will not, depending on the location of the home and it's closeness to other homes.

"It's certainly not the City's intention to close the Stock Show," Mayor Westbrook said.

He explained that the ordinances had been examined by City attorneys before they were adopted.

The matter will be discussed further and Mayor Westbrook will talk with the City Attorney.

Also expressing concerns about the new City ordinances were Matador residents, Gene Chapman and Alvin Alexander.

Mr. Chapman commended the Council for making efforts to clean up the town. He expressed concerns about too many dogs in one location and the barking associated with the problem. He also stated that he did not want any hogs in town.

Mr. Alexander also commended the Council for making efforts to clean up the City, but feels that City ordinances are for cities. He said he strongly feels that every resident with a water meter on their property should have city sewer service available. He explained that he would also like to see more city streets paved.

Councilman Pat Seigler explained that property owners pay for the paving of streets.

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Motley County Commissioners meet for March Court session

The Motley County Commissioners Court met for regular session, Monday, March 14. Members of the court present were County Judge Ed D. Smith; Commissioners Ronnie Davis, Precinct 1, Donnie Turner, Precinct 2, Franklin Jameson, Precinct 3, and Russell Alexander, Precinct 4; County Clerk Kate Hurt. Also in attendance were County Attorney Tom Edwards and Sheriff Jim Meador.

Mrs. Hurt read the minutes from the previous meeting. Outstanding bills were reviewed, as

well as reports by the Treasurer, Tax-Collector, Justice of the Peace, Library, and County Agent. Commissioners approved the minutes, bills and all reports.

Judge Smith presented the list of names that were submitted for the Court's appointment to serve on the Motley County Historical Commission. Commissioners approved the names submitted.

Justice of the Peace, Cora Smallwood, informed the Court that her office was approved for a \$8,295.00 software grant for computer upgrades from the

State of Texas. Commissioners asked Judge Smith to work with Judge Smallwood on this grant.

Judge Smith presented to the Commissioners the Off-System Bridge Inspections Report for their precincts.

Motley County ISD Superintendent Rick Copp, Principal Marilynn Hicks, members of the School Board and members of the Appraisal District Board met with the Court to discuss the 2004 Tax Ratio Study. Finding the needed funding for county entities has become an emergency for many small counties in Texas.

Dinner Theatre will present One-Act-Play

by Annie Green

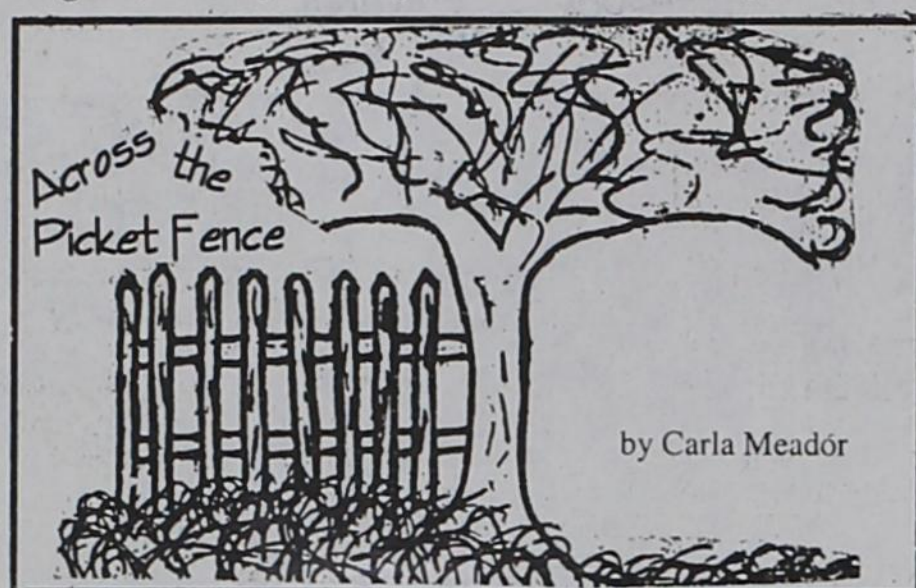
On Monday, March 21, 2005, the Motley County I.S.D. will open its doors to its first ever Dinner Theatre. This exciting event will take place at 6:00 p.m. and is sponsored by the One-Act Play cast and the Motley County Junior Class. Tickets can be purchased by contacting a member of the Junior class or by purchasing one at the door.

Mrs. Bingham, a sponsor of the Junior class, has dedicated a great deal of time planning the menu and setting up all the de-

tails. The One-Act Play cast, crew, and directors have spent a large amount of time as well, rehearsing and preparing to put on a performance of a lifetime. Their hard work and dedication for the past several months will be showcased for all to see.

So come and enjoy a delicious meal, dramatic entertainment, and a night out on the town.

The One-Act Play will be traveling to Jayton on March 22nd for the One-Act Play Competition. We wish them the best of luck!



In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here's an Irish Blessing ...

May you live long, die happy,
and rate a mansion in heaven.
May you have the hindsight to know where
you've been, the foresight to know where you're
going, and the insight to know when
you're going too far!

May your home always be too
small to hold all of your friends.
May you have food and raiment,
a soft pillow for your head;
may you be 40 years in heaven
before the devil knows you're dead.

May those who love us, love us. And those
who don't love us, may God turn their hearts.
And if he doesn't turn their hearts,
may he turn their ankles,
so we may know them by their limping!

May the leprechauns be near you,
to spread luck along your way.
and may all the Irish angels
smile on you St. Patrick's Day.

May your neighbors respect you,
trouble neglect you, the angels
protect you, and heaven accept you.

May the good Lord take a liking to you,
... but not too soon!

Ladies Bible Study to begin at Matador Baptist Church

A Bible study will begin March 29 at the First Baptist Church in Matador in the Prayer Chapel, located behind the Church. There will be two sessions each Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The study, "A Woman After God's Own Heart" by Elizabeth George, is a ten week study. Workbooks are \$14.00 each.

All women of the county are invited to be a part of this study.

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MAKING PROGRESS



It has been said that it is easier to decide what to do when we have already made up our minds. That is said because when we are 100% sure of something, it is not hard to determine what we should do. Our actions are more like reflexes than anything else.

But when we have not fully made up our minds it is much harder to decide a course of action or respond as we should. Options must be considered, consequences must be weighed, and then we make our decision based on the best information that we have available.

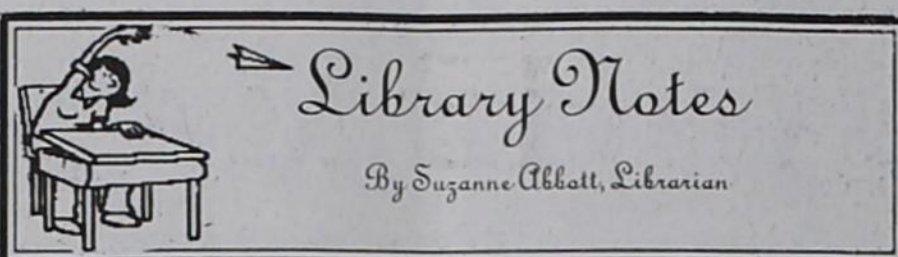
As maturing Christians, we progress in our faith to the point where we no longer have to think about whether we should do the right thing or not. We simply do the right thing. Mature faith allows growth to the point where we do not doubt God's ability to work in the lives of people. Doubt is removed through faith and faith brings conviction. Christian people advance from a life of doubt to a life built on the foundation on the Rock ... that rock is Christ.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ

Michael G. Crowley, Sr.

BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP, 9:00 A.M.



Happy St. Patrick's Day to all who have a wee bit of Irish in you!

We appreciate the memorial donations that we received last week. We thank Jo Scott for her donation in memory of Pansy Spray and Julia B. Martin. We also thank Orville and Ruth Lee for their donation in memory of Pansy Spray and Julia B. Martin. We appreciate the donation by Virginia Martin in memory of Don Warren and Pansy Spray.

New books in the library include *Killing Kelly* by Heather Graham, *Missing Persons* by Stephen White and *Lost Mother* by Mary Morris. Also new in the library is *Impossible* by Danielle Steel and *Led Astray* by Sandra

Brown.

Another new book is *Home Fires Burning: Married to the Military--For Better or Worse* by Karen Houppert. Houppert, an award-winning journalist, lived for a year at Fort Drum, New York, among the women awaiting their husbands' return from military duty overseas. This is their story.

There is not a story time today, but we will have story time next Thursday 3:30-4:15. We have been having a good crowd for these stories. We appreciate Mrs. Jan Jones's students, Monica Huddleston, Ashlee Green, Annie Green, and Veronica Mendoza, who present the stories and help with the other activities.

PROOF OF THE TRUTH

BY TOM EDWARDS

THE CRITIC'S TRILEMMA!

Last week we considered God's dilemma (2 competing choices). Now here's the critic's trilemma (only 3 choices).

Today, even the most knowledgeable of unbelievers concede that Jesus was a true historical person. There's too much evidence to deny it. Yet, to a person they are convinced that they are completely logical and rational, and invariably say things like: "Jesus was a good person and great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God!"

Let's examine that statement. Would a liar be a good person and great moral teacher? Would a lunatic qualify as such? Certainly not!

Since Jesus clearly claimed to be God, can He be JUST a good person and great moral teacher? These types of persons and teachers don't go around deceiving people by falsely claiming to be God! As Jesus did claim to be God, one of only three possibilities can be true: He was either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. There is no other possibility.

Liar doesn't fit the facts. Jesus lived and taught the highest standard of ethics, and it is highly unlikely that he would lay

down his life unless he really thought he was telling the truth. Liars know they are not telling the truth.

If Jesus thought he was God, but was mistaken and really wasn't, then he would have been a lunatic, but that doesn't wash either, as he uttered some of the most profound sayings ever recorded, and even his enemies admitted that he was a man of integrity who taught the truth (Mark 12:14).

Only one choice is left. He was who He said He was - Lord. The critic can't have it his way. Conceding that Jesus was a good man and great moral teacher is an admission that He is Lord, because a good person and great moral teacher can't be a liar or lunatic.

On the other hand, when the critic rules out liar and lunatic, and then limits Jesus to being ONLY a good person and great moral teacher, but not God, the critic has drawn a nonsense conclusion from irrational thinking.

Jesus did not leave available the option of His just being a good person and great teacher, while not being God. He didn't intend to!

He was either: liar, lunatic, or Lord!

El Progreso Guest Night features Cowboy Poetry

by Beverly Vinson

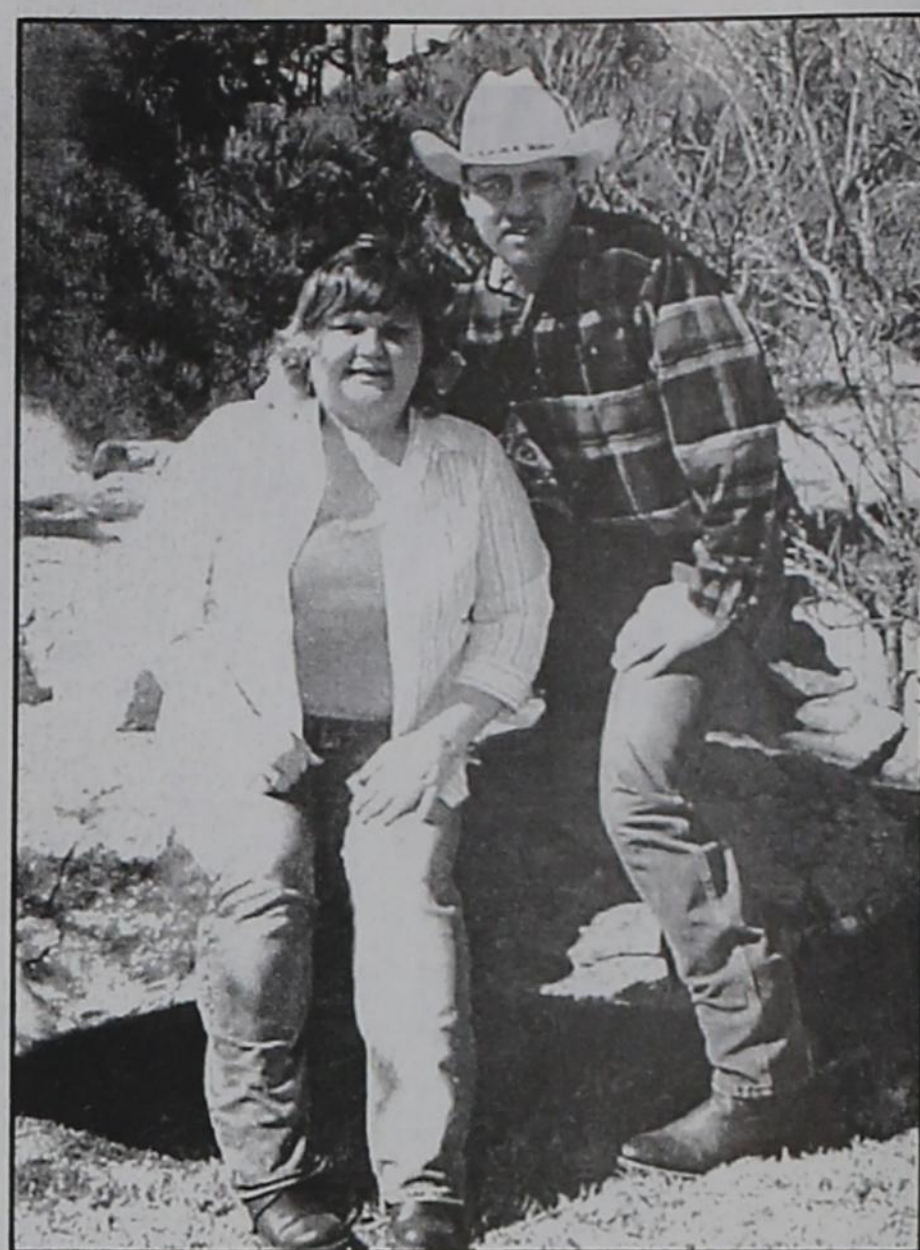
The annual El Progreso guest evening was held March 10 in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church with a smaller crowd than usual because of so much sickness of the members, but it was enthusiastic and most enjoyable. Dr. Clint Burns gave the invocation.

Serving tables were decorated with silk Spring flowers with the abundance of delicious brisket, red beans, cole slaw, hot rolls with butter, a large variety of fresh vegetables, pickles and tidbits with cherry pie, peach cobbler and ice cream topping, tea and coffee.

Lana Copp, club president, presided over the short business that needed taken care of, announcing the Spring convention at Burk Burnett on April 9. The next program will be announced later as it and the May program will probably be changed. She also announced that the pattern for Presentation gowns for infants who have passed away in the hospital, has arrived and is ready to be used. Babies will wear the gowns when taken to their parents.

Mrs. Copp then introduced the program for the evening, Mrs. Virginia Taylor of South Plains, a most talented, charming woman. The program was Cowboy Poetry, something she has been involved in at the Cowboy Symposium in Lubbock. She was attired in a beautiful maroon western hat with matching fringed vest, shirt and skirt and silver jewelry to set the tone for the program. Her poetry had so much meaning to everyone. She told why some of the poems were so meaningful to her in a personal way. Some were taken from real life, making them much more interesting. What a joy to hear her poems.

The group introduced themselves and guests: Fredia Burns and Clinton Burns, Lana Copp, Joetta Bumgardner, Dorothy Day, Elaine Hart and Doris Moore, Lucretia Campbell and Eugenia Barton, Winifred Darsey and Marion Woodruff, Beverly Vinson and Billie Koon and Joe Taylor, Virginia's husband.



Misty Mae Thomas & Johnny Dale Cooper

Couple Announces Wedding Plans

Misty Thomas and Johnny Cooper of Brownfield would like to announce their plans to be married. The couple will exchange vows Saturday, March 19, at the City Park in Matador. Misty is the daughter of Richard and Darlene Thomas of Matador. She is a 1997 graduate of Motley County High School. She is employed at Building Bridges in Brownfield. Johnny is a 1996 graduate of Melrose, New Mexico High School. He is employed at TDCJ in Lamesa. He is the son of Daria Reed of Spearman and the late Dale Cooper. The couple will reside in Brownfield.



Arts & Crafts news

By Winifred Darsey

Motley County Arts and Crafts Club finally reached its benchmark in artistry when its members decorated Easter Eggs with crystal beads, Monday, March 7.

Nova Dale Turner was instructor and taught the members various ways to enhance the plastic egg. If plastic eggs can become glamorous, these were. They were covered with crystal beads and the different colored eggs made them glow and shine and will make beautiful decorations for the Easter season.

Club President, Joy Archer, held the business meeting at 10:00 a.m. Business as usual was conducted with emphasis on programs, workshops and projects.

The members dined at noon with the Seniors and enjoyed tasty Mexican cuisine. Ole!

Members present were Joy Archer, Dorothy Day, Vee Gordon, Dorothy Knight, Lorene Lancaster, Joyce Meredith, Greta Smallwood, Jo Trammell, Nova Dale Turner and Winifred Darsey.

Happy 30th Birthday!



Love, your family

Easter is March 27th

Easter Lilies,
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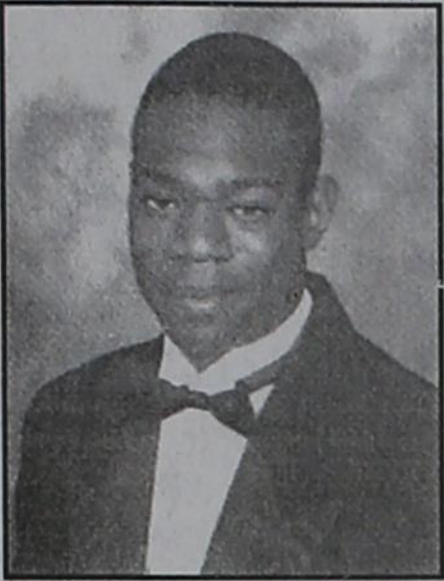
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& White
& Read all over?
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Motley County ★ Class of 2005 ★ Senior Spotlight



SEAGRAM FOREST SIMS

Age: 17
Date of Birth: March 31, 1987
Parents: Forest and Louise Sims.
Siblings: 2 sisters, Gwen and Kim.
Who do you most admire and why? My aunt Jessie Mae, because she's always been

there no matter what.
Favorite high school memory: Pencil break wars.
Extracurricular activities (Sr. year): basketball, football
Special honors: Dayton Graham Award, All-District Running Back, Basketball All-District team.

Words of wisdom for the underclassmen: Don't do Drugs!
Plans after graduation: Attend South Plains College and major in Electronics.

FAVORITES:

Food: Chicken
Hangout: With Demitric
Movie: Fear and Loathing
Musical Group: Lil' Jon and the East Side Boys.
Color: Red
Past Time: Work on my Stereo.
Soft Drink: Sprite
Book: Clifford
Songs: Roll Call by Lil' Jon.
Teacher (K-12): Mrs. Gillespie.
Sport: Football

THE MATADOR

— SCHOOL NEWS & HAPPENINGS —



Life Lessons

By Annie Green



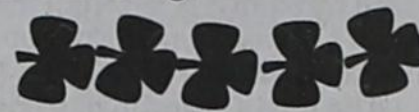
Life is full of choices. Throughout our lives we will be faced with many decisions. Some might be as simple as deciding which outfit to wear...and others might be more difficult such as...who should I associate with. No matter where we look it seems as though there is always a decision to be made.

So how exactly do we know that we are making the right one? The answer is simple...pray! The Bible states: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

God has a plan and a purpose for our lives, and everything we

do should glorify Him. It may be difficult to say NO to peer pressure, or stay home from a party where trouble is bound to be. But think about this: "Would you want to take God with you to some of the places you go, or have him around while you are doing some of the things you do?" God is always with us.

Here is something to think about that was seen on a sign, "Directions to Heaven--turn RIGHT and go STRAIGHT."



School Menu

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk
Lunch: Pepperoni Pizza, Salad, Pineapple Chunks, Vanilla Wafers, Milk

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Breakfast: Cinnamon French Toast, Syrup, or Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk
Lunch: Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Baked Beans, Sliced Peaches, Milk

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Juice, Milk
Lunch: Fish Sticks, Macaroni and Cheese, Spinach, Hush Puppy, Fresh Grapes, Milk

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

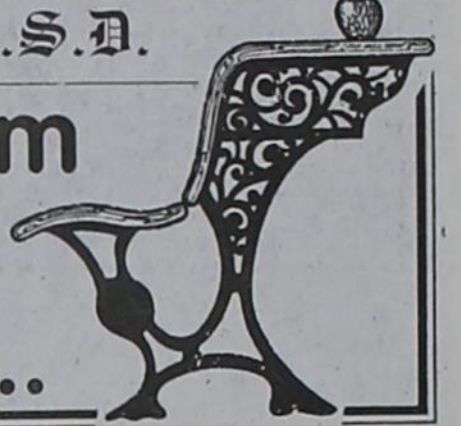
Breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls, Applesauce, Milk
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Creamed Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, Gravy, Hot Roll, Honey, Milk

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

NO SCHOOL!

Motley County I.S.D.

A Note from the Office ...



Spring Break is finally here and we were all glad to see it arrive!

On the Monday we return from break, there will be a Dinner Theater at the school in the evening. It will start at 6:00 and is sponsored by the Junior Class and the One-Act Play cast. Mrs. Bingham has been busy planning the menu and lining up the details of the event. If you haven't had a chance to purchase a ticket, just come on out, and we will sell you one at the door. This should be a great evening. The One-Act Play competition will be in Jayton on the 22nd. Our students have been practicing for several months and will be glad when the competition is finally here.

Also on Monday, the 21st, there will be a meeting right after school for the people who are trying out for cheerleader next year. This meeting will be to learn the dance routine and chant that will be used for the tryouts. The tryouts will be on the 30th of March. Independent judges will make the choice. There will be five junior high cheerleaders, six varsity cheerleaders, and one mascot for the high school.

Also next week, school will be dismissed at 1:30 on Thursday. Friday the 25th and Monday the 28th will be holidays around Easter. And then it will be the end of March. Can you believe it?

What's Goin' On???

Monday - Friday, March 14-18: SPRING BREAK !!

Monday, March 21: Girls Golf at Roaring Springs. Budget Workshop at 6:00 p.m.
OAP/Dinner Theatre at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22: RPTE Tests.

East Zone OAP at Jayton. JH Track at MC

Wednesday, March 23: Boys Golf at Roaring Springs.

Thursday, March 24: Early out, 1:30 p.m.

FFA at Tarleton

HS Track at MC
Friday, March 25: Good Friday Holiday.

Sunday, March 27: EASTER SUNDAY!

Monday, March 28: Snow Day holiday.

Tuesday, March 29: Dist. OAP at Dawson.

Girl's Golf at Abernathy. **Wednesday, March 30:** Cheerleader Tryouts.

Boy's Golf at Abernathy. **Thursday, March 31:** HS UIL at Loop.

Shop
Motley
County
first!

Communities can work together to prevent underage alcohol abuse

COLLEGE STATION—The good news is, when it comes to rates of underage alcohol use, young Texans are a little bit below national average.

According to a new federal study from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 9.8 percent of Texans age 12 to 17 have recently engaged in binge drinking—defined as consuming five or more drinks in one sitting. The national average for this same age group is 10.7 percent. The bad news is that's still too many underage Texans using alcohol, said Terri Miller, project director for Texas Cooperative Extension's Safe Communities.

The best news, she said, is the report—"State Estimates of Substance Use from 2002-2003 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health"—provides a starting place for fixing the problem. "Americans are now able to review the statistics nationwide to determine what needs to be done to encourage responsible drinking," she said.

Other information from the report:

*Among 18- to 25-year-olds, 40 percent of Texans reported recently drinking 5 or more drinks at one sitting; nationally the average was 41 percent.

*Binge drinking was higher

among rural 12- to 17-year-olds than those from urban areas.

*Underage binge drinking among 18- to 20-year-olds was higher in non-rural areas.

Miller also offered other statistics concerning young people and alcohol abuse:

*According to the 2003 federal report, young men age 21 or older were more likely than young women to have had their first drink before age 15.

*Those early drinkers were more than five times likely to report alcohol dependence than those who first used alcohol at age 21 or older.

*Among the 14 million adults (age 21 or older) who are classified as alcohol dependent, more than 13 million—95 percent—started drinking before age 21.

Obviously, alcoholic beverages are a fact of life, Miller said. But drinking responsibly can prevent many alcohol-induced problems.

"Delaying the onset of alcohol use has been proposed as a strategy to prevent alcohol dependence or abuse in adulthood," Miller said.

The best news is: Communities can work together to combat underage drinking, she said. "First people should educate themselves and others about the risks of drinking alcohol," Miller said.

One program she recommends is from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Called "Protecting You/Protecting Me," the program is designed for elementary school-age children.

"Second, people should be responsible party hosts and offer non-alcoholic beverages to drivers," Miller said. "In addition, they should prevent any intoxicated guests from getting behind the wheel of a car. Parents should not serve alcohol to minors and should come up with an arrangement for their children to call home if they or someone else who is driving them have been drinking."

Preventing underage alcohol abuse "requires the involvement of every concerned citizen," she said. "Form a Safe Community coalition to address teen drinking and driving in your community."

Several Safe Community coalitions have been organized across the state, including Amarillo, Houston, Fort Hood, El Paso, Canyon, Dallas, Denton, San Antonio, the Rio Grande Valley and Waco. This effort to improve safety on the community level; is sponsored by Extension and Texas Department of Transportation.

For more information on how to form a local coalition, contact Miller at (979) 845-1804 or tmiller@ag.tamu.edu.



Use Safety in
School Zones!

Easter Sale Continues!



Great Selection of
Easter goodies!

Baskets, Eggs,
Cards, Napkins,
Gifts & More!

Matador
Variety

Shamrock Specials

With every \$5 purchase
register for our
St. Patrick's Drawing!

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... Blessed are all who put their trust in Him."
Psalm 2:12

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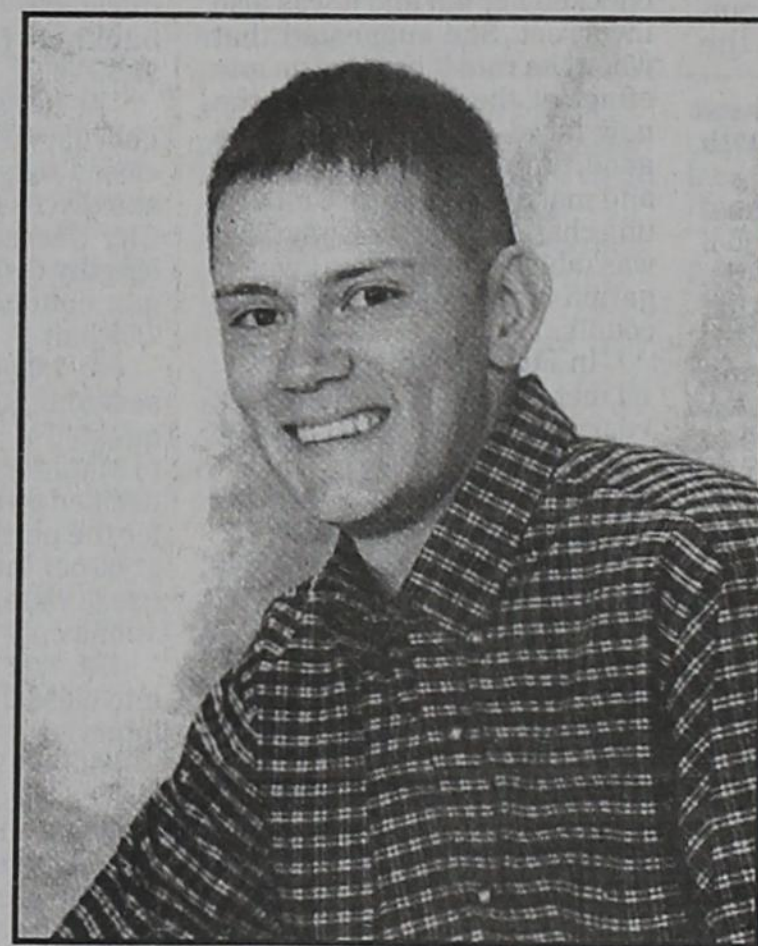


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New to You

Downtown Matador

MC ★ Shining ★ Star March Student of the Month



Matt HENZLER

Matt HENZLER, Motley County High School Senior, is the March Student of the Month. He is the son of Russ and Andi HENZLER of Matador. Matt has been involved in numerous activities throughout high school. He has been an active participant in football, basketball, golf and a member of FFA in which he participates on the horse judging team and recently won Reserve Champion Swine at the Motley County Stock Show.

In his spare time Matt enjoys fishing, working on his truck and hanging out with his friends. After high school Matt plans to attend South Plains College.

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CapRock Tv



Gift of Love

6-year-old Sage Guerrero recently had her long, beautiful hair cut and donated her locks to Locks of Love, an organization which makes wigs for children suffering with diseases causing them to lose their hair. The hair donations must be real hair, at least 10" long. Cutting Sage's long locks is her mom, Zacha Guerrero, a local hair stylist. Also having her long hair cut that day and donating to the organization was Cynthia Stafford of Matador.

First Operation Clean-Up declared a success

The first of four scheduled clean up days in Matador was held Saturday, March 12, and was very successful. Fourteen lots were cleaned and cleared to kick off Operation Clean-Up. From 65-70 volunteers worked from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers came out prepared, bringing brush and tree cutters, loaders, trailers, dump trucks, pickups, roll-off dumpsters, tractors, lawn mowers and weed eaters. Over 560 hours of volunteer work was totaled and very much appreciated by City officials.

Mayor Paul Westbrook said, "We were amazed by the overwhelming response to this call to clean up the town of Matador. We appreciate each volunteer and the hours of work they put in."

The clean up project is sponsored through a grant from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality.

The next Clean Up day has been scheduled for Saturday, April 2.



Volunteers worked together to clean and clear neglected lots in Matador during the first of four scheduled clean up days for Operation Clean-Up. The day was successful with 65-70 volunteers giving their time for the effort. The next clean up day is scheduled for April 2.

Parents meet with City Council

from page 1

Dianne Washington, representing the Motley County Chamber of Commerce, presented to the Council a request made by the Boondocker's Motorcycle Club of Lubbock. The Club would like to hold a Grand Prix in Matador in January or February of 2006.

Mrs. Washington explained that the event is family oriented and will bring business to the City. There is also the potential of fundraising for groups such as EMS, 4-H, etc.

The event will require 5-6 miles of dirt track inside the City and assurance from the Sheriff that no tickets will be given for riders on the track.

Mrs. Washington explained that this type of event has been held in Quitaque for the last two years and has been very successful. Post Enduro will hold a Grand Prix in Quitaque this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20. Mrs. Washington encouraged Council members to attend if they had the opportunity and see the event first hand.

Since these topics of discussion were not on the agenda, no decisions were made, but Council members plan to look further into each request and concern.

In other business minutes were read and approved for the February 10th meeting.

The truck purchased by grant money was \$2,000 less than the grant allowed and Kelli McElhone stipulated that money could be used on the purchase of the bucket for the loader.

Minutes were read and approved for the February 17th meeting.

Mayor Westbrook presented the 2005-06 budget and asked if changes needed to be made. Steve Barton mentioned that the new budget allowed \$2,100 for Water waste plant permit and he understood that this year the permit would be \$5,000 to cover a 5-year period. The budget was amended to include this increase and the budget was approved.

The General Fund budget was presented and it was noted the increase in the deficit was due to the added expense of the deputy and municipal judge and would be offset by Ad Valorem taxes. Council approved.

The Council elected to use the Election Judge selected by Motley County School, Mary Helen Wason, as the Election Judge for the upcoming City Council Election.

The Council went into executive session at 8:05 to discuss personnel raises and reconvened at 8:25. Council approved a raise to Roy Moreno's salary and to pay a compensation for water utilities. Council also approved a raise to Steve Barton's salary and a compensation for water utilities. Council approved to raise Wendi Taylor's salary per hourly wage for part time help and a compensation for water utilities.

Water Superintendent Steve Barton gave his monthly report and stated water revenue was down due to excessive rains and water not being used in yards. He requested the purchase of a tarp 50x100 to cover the trash at the dump site. Council approved this request.

The board discussed the need for a utility trailer but the subject was tabled.

Council member, Shane Jones, brought to the attention of the Council that one of her renters was not being charged sewer and sanitation, and she checked her bill and it was also incorrect. She suggested that when the rate increases go into effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year, it would be a good time to review accounts and make sure they are all getting charged appropriately. This was tabled until further investigation can be done on all accounts.

In February the City Council met in regular session, February 10 and in special session February 17.

At the February 10 meeting minutes were read and approved. A budget review for the

2005-06 fiscal year, as well as a current budget, was presented to council by Councilman Jim Watson.

A list of expenditures were presented and approved for payment.

An Order of Election for the May 7, 2005, Election was presented. The election will be for the purpose of three two-year Council seats, currently held by Jim Watson, Chuck Ream and Bert Darsey. The Order of Election was approved.

After lengthy discussion, Council voted to increase water rates as of April 1, due to the increase in fuel cost and the increase in the electrical rates.

Residential water for the basic 3000 gallons will be \$16.50 with a \$2.00 charge for every 1000 gallons thereafter. Businesses will be charged \$18.75 for the basic 3000 gallons and \$2.00 for every 1000 gallons thereafter. There will also be a \$1.00 increase on all sewer and sanitation rates for businesses and residential use.

City employee, Casey Lawrence was evaluated. Council approved a monthly raise and a compensation for his monthly water bill.

Council approved obtaining a loan from the First State Bank of Matador for up to \$25,000.00 for the purchase of a dump truck. The loan will be repaid with Grant money to be received in May.

Council also approved the purchase of a bucket for the backhoe for the amount of \$7,550.00.

At the special session held February 17, Council went into closed session at 6:42 to review and discuss applications for the City Secretary position. After lengthy discussion, Council began conducting interviews at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:20 Council began open session. Roaring Springs requested a permanent hook-up to Matador water lines. Council decided on an annual fee of \$200 for the permanent hook-up and \$2.00 per thousand gallon fee for use of water in emergency situations only. Council approved.

At 7:27 p.m. Council went into closed session to complete interviews.

At 7:50 p.m. Council exited closed session and voted by secret ballot. Debra Scott received the most votes for the position of City Secretary. Council approved to hire Debra Scott as City Secretary at an annual salary of \$21,400.

Community Volunteers make plans to sponsor County Fair

Roaring Springs Community Volunteers are planning to sponsor a Motley County Fair in mid-October at the Roaring Springs Community Center. The fair will feature old fashioned fun with competitions for baked goods, crafts, canning, quilts, etc. There will be no live-stock.

More information will be announced as plans progress.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
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Isaiah 60: 1

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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

MOTLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS & VIEWS

by Marie-Louise Liebe-Harkort



Consider:

"If the Lord had intended things to be big, he would have made man bigger -- in brains and character."

-- Louis Brandeis
Supreme Court Justice, 1911

So, if big is not where it's at, the operative concept seems to be "small," as in "Small Business" in a small county.

We already have some small businesses, but we could do well with more, so to promote the founding of new businesses and offer help to those in existence, the Chamber has invited Steve Anderson from the Small Business Development Center at Texas Tech to come to Motley County and talk with any and all persons interested in finding out more about what opportunities may exist.

The date for this event has now been set -- it will take place on April 19, 2005, so you have a whole month to get your thoughts ready. Meeting with Steve Anderson will, of course, be free, and he is planning to spend the whole day here, so you will have a chance to discuss your ideas and concerns in depth.

The plan is for more interested parties to meet with Steve individually in the morning and afternoon, at the Chamber office in the museum. He will also

attend the Chamber meeting that evening at 5:30 in the Library, so there should be plenty of time for all interested comers to talk with him.

The only thing we ask is that you contact the Chamber president, Annette Hollinsworth, at New to You in Matador so that she can set up appointment times so that Steve's time can be used to the best advantage for everyone. You can go by and talk to Annette, or call her at the shop (347-2388) or send her an E-Mail with the time you would like to meet with Steve Anderson at newtoyou@caprock-spur.com.

You need not feel that you have to know everything already to meet with Steve. It is quite enough if you have an idea you want to explore -- that is what the Small Business Development Center is all about. But he can only help you if you meet with him and explore possibilities. So we hope people in the County will make the most of this opportunity and deluge him with questions. If the need is there, he can come back for more meetings.

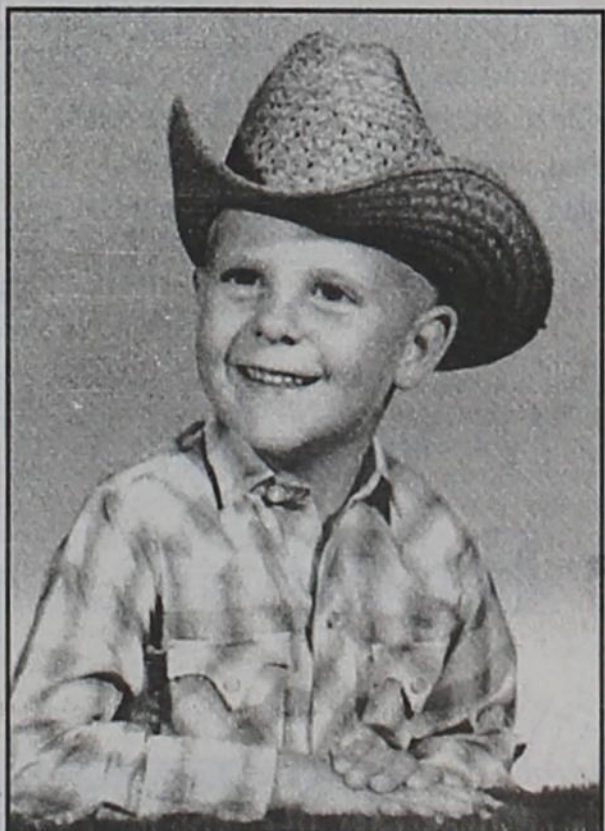
The main thing now is to get the ball rolling, and start exploring. So get with Annette, make an appointment, and the rest will evolve in the fullness of time.

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone who donated money to support the Motley County Elementary students in the "Jump Rope for Heart" jump-a-thon. We had a very successful event and appreciate all who supported our kids and the American Heart Association.

Thank you,
Judy Cooper

Cowboy Up Dad!
40 is not so bad!



Happy Birthday!
Love ya, Bubba & Sister



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ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY!

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Carla, I was amazed at the "turn-out" for Operation Cleanup, last Saturday, March 12th. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who showed up with their own equipment. I won't try to name each individual, for fear of missing someone. We even had some out of town people come to help us. We had 65-70 volunteers, young and old--working approximately 560 hours, cleaning up tons of solid waste, as well as lots of trash, etc.

I would like to give a "Special Thanks" to the 14 Property Owners for their support, in giving permission for Operation Cleanup to clean up their property, as well as those who cleaned up their own properties.

I believe with the citizens of Matador, working together, anything can be accomplished. As far as I know, we had no major injuries, just a few blisters, sunburns, and ant bites.

Special thanks to those who donated food, drinks, etc. Thanks to S.P.A.G. and T.C.E.Q. for their support and financial help.

I even heard from some that "this is fun and I don't see why people wouldn't volunteer for this!"

Thanks again, to all of our volunteers, hope to see you again in April for "OPERATION CLEANUP"

If any of our property owners would like help in cleaning up their property in April, please contact us at City Hall.

Thanks, Carla, for your coverage of Operation Cleanup. It is my pleasure to serve the citizens of Matador. May God Bless the city of Matador.

Sincerely,
Mayor, Paul Westbrook

THANK YOU
FOR READING
THE
MOTLEY COUNTY
TRIBUNE

Glory Be - Can it be True?
Our Dougie is 40!



Happy Birthday!
Cis, Lin, Ca & the Gang

Letter to Editor:

I felt great sadness as I read the Feb. 24th article that my Dad placed in your newspaper. I have known about his views concerning Jesus and the Bible for many years now.

I would like for you to know that it was through the inspiration of my mother, Grace, that my brother, Guy, and I sought after the truth about Jesus, which can only be found in the scriptures of the Holy Bible. We read in, "I John 4, verses 14 and 15" - And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. "I John 5, verse 13: - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.

As a result of these passages of scripture and many others throughout the Bible, we believe that Jesus Christ, is in fact, the Son of God and we are very happy to confirm that he is our Lord and Savior.

I recently learned that over the past few weeks, there have been many of our Christian friends, praying for our family. We love each one of you and appreciate you more than you'll ever know.

Please know that we draw comfort from your prayers and we especially find comfort in Jesus, our Lord and Savior, in this time of need.

Harry Campbell
Lubbock, Texas

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

Psalm 33: 1

Dear Editor,

I would appreciate it if you would print my letter in your newspaper.

I am a 5th grade student at Coronado Beach Elementary School in new Smyrna Beach, Florida. I have adopted your state as a class project. Please send me one postcard from your state. Please do not send me anything but a postcard. We are unable to accept letters or packages due to safety precautions. I am writing in hopes of getting a postcard from as many different people as possible. It would be great if some will take the time to write a short note on the postcard telling me something interesting or special about your state.

I hope your readers can help me with my project. My classmates are also doing this project. Each of us has chosen a different state. I would like to become an expert on your state. Please accept my thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,
Briana Jamieson

Dear Editor,

An anonymous donation has allowed the Friends of the Motley County Library to purchase the building next door to the library. The Friends plan to clean it up and offer it for rent to individuals and organizations that need a place for special events or monthly meetings. This meeting place will also provide much needed room for programs that the library sponsors. Everyone remembers how crowded we were at the program presented by Alvin Lynn. Now, we will have more room and can be much more comfortable.

We are asking for donations to help renovate this building. We appreciate the donations already received, one from Marguerite Edwards and one from the Motley County Arts and Crafts. If you would like to help with this project, you can donate at the library or you can mail your donation to Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 557, Matador, TX 79244.

The Friends of the Motley County Library is a 501 (c) (3) organization and any donations are tax exempt. We appreciate your help with this project.

Sincerely yours,
Deanie Edwards, Secretary

Dear Carla,

I appreciate the picture that you are using in your new format for the Motley County Tribune!

There's only two horses in the picture that I can identify. One, I remember his name, the other I don't. "What?" you say, "A cowboy that doesn't remember a horses' name?"

In the background, top center, the grey horse out in the water, on the far right was added to my string that fall. I only got to ride him two or three times, as he was just a bronc. Remember, we were cleaning out the Matadors that Fall, and selling all of the cattle, so we didn't ride a bronc much. We all wanted to ride something that we could rope off of. Believe me, we did get a lot of roping that fall!

Jay Niles (that's not a misprint - NILES) put the first saddling on this pony, back in October, while we were camped at TeePee City.

The other pony, that I can point out, is on the left, front, of the three horses standing about twenty feet apart, and facing the camera, the glad face brown in the middle is "Jitterbug." He was in my mount, too.

This picture was taken as we were moving the Wagon, from East Camp, to Red Hills.

Again, thanks for your choice of the picture.

Johnny Davenport
Post, Texas

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Tribune



ROARING SPRINGS ACCIDENT — State DPS Trooper, Chad Overton, examines the 1994 Jeep Cherokee involved in a one-vehicle accident south of Roaring Springs last Wednesday, March 9. According to Trooper Overton's accident report, P.J. Schmidt, 32, of Dickens, was driving with his two sons, ages 5 and 2, traveling northwest on Loop 42, when the vehicle veered off into the ditch and struck a milepost sign. The vehicle slid back on to the highway and overturned coming to a rest on its left side facing northeast. Mr. Schmidt and his sons were all wearing their seat belts and there were no injuries.

Seniors stand to lose \$600 by end of March Full Medicare Prescription Drug Credit available for short time

(Austin, Texas) March 31st marks the last day seniors will be eligible to receive the full \$600 credit for prescription drugs offered through Medicare to low-income beneficiaries who enroll in an approved interim drug discount card program. The credit allows seniors to get extra help in paying for their medications in addition to the discounts they will receive by using the card at their local pharmacy.

"Because the cost of prescription drugs can be hard for seniors with limited incomes, we are encouraging anyone seeking some relief to look into a card," explained Paul Pearson, Regional Director for the Healthcare Leadership Council. "Each plan is different, offering different discounts on different drugs, so there may be a card that offers significant savings to those who need it most."

Qualifying applicants for the \$600 credit must have Medicare Part A and/or Part B, have no outpatient prescription drug benefits through an employer group health plan or other health insurance (except through Veteran's benefit, a Medicare Advantage Plan, or a Medigap policy), and your monthly income is no more than \$1,048 (\$12,569) if you are single, or no more than \$1,406 (\$16,862 a year) if you are married. Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a private Medicare managed care plan or a Medicare Advantage plan should call their plan for guidance as their drug discount card options may be limited.

"My husband and I enrolled in a card offered through our local HEB pharmacy and the first time I used the card I cried because of the money we saved. Just for my medication, I was paying about \$70 per month and my bill with the card was only \$5. When we received my husband's card, his cost dropped from \$118 to less than \$7. We could not believe the savings and we immediately wanted to go buy some healthier food with the extra money," recalled Andrea Garcia, an Austin, Texas resident who signed up for the card and for the credit in 2004.

This is the last month that Medicare will offer the \$600 benefit before it reduces by \$150 every quarter through the end of the year. Beginning April 1st, the credit for new enrollees will be \$450 through July. On August 1st, it lowers again to \$300 and then to \$150 on the first of October. The cards will phase out at the start of 2006 as the new Medicare Prescription Drug Part D takes effect.

Seniors have had the opportunity to sign up for a Medicare-approved drug discount card since May 2004. Private companies contracted with Medicare to offer savings on Prescription drugs and in Texas, there are over 30 cards to choose from to help seniors save money on their monthly drug costs. Seniors on Medicare who do not meet the financial criteria to receive the \$600 credit, but still want to save money on their prescription drug costs may enroll in a drug discount card program. There is no income limit to receive a card, only to receive the credit.

To research drug discount card options, seniors may call 1-800-MEDICARE and talk to a Medicare representative or for information available on the internet, visit

www.medicare.gov or www.benefitscheckup.org. Seniors should be prepared to give a list of their prescribed drugs and the dosage, in the current costs of those drugs and the zip code of the pharmacy where they prefer to purchase their drugs. Medicare can also provide a list of pharmacies that accept Medicare-approved drug discount cards near a residence.

Katy Marroquin of Sebastian, Texas comments, "For the last twenty years, my husband and I have had great expense in medication. Last year, my husband suffered another stroke and the addition of new medications made our total drug costs rise to over \$600 a month. Thankfully, we have a great relationship with our drug store who worked with us while we looked for help. With the help of a Medicare Today representative, we were able to find a Medicare-approved drug card and a patient assistance program to help significantly lower our drug costs to under \$50 per month."

School in Jeopardy

from page 1

study is an independent estimate mandated by the Texas Legislature and ensures that property values within a school district are at or near market value for equitable school funding. If the local values are more than 5 percent below state values, the school district could receive fewer state dollars because the funding formulas will use state values to calculate the state funding.

A school district can contest the state values, but it is critical that school districts and the appraisal districts understand the reasons for the differences in the state and local values.

Each January 1 marks the beginning of property appraisal, which depends upon the use of the property as of January 1 and the current market conditions. Between January 1 and April 30, the appraisal district processes applications for tax exemptions, agricultural appraisals, other tax relief and property reductions. The appraisal district also makes value determinations for all taxable property within its boundaries.

Mrs. Osborn said that the Rural Real tax value probably needs to be re-examined since there is so much land in Motley County now leased or bought for hunting purposes. She explained that the value of the property would increase with the amount that is paid for hunting, verses agriculture.

Mrs. Osborn said that since a big majority of Motley County taxpayers are over 65, their school tax rate is frozen. "When a homeowner turns 65 the

Different drug card programs may have an enrollment fee which ranges from \$0 up to \$30. If a senior qualifies for the \$600 credit, then that fee is waived.

"With so many other bills to pay, the cards have helped us to breathe a little when its time to go get medication," adds Mrs. Marroquin.

Congress created the drug discount card program so Medicare beneficiaries could begin to reap savings immediately. This is an interim step to give beneficiaries assistance right now, lasting until the full prescription drug benefit takes effect on January 1st, 2006.

The Healthcare Leadership Council is part of the Medicare Today initiative, an alliance of over 100 health, employer, consumer and community-based organizations working to provide Medicare beneficiaries with reliable information on the benefits available to them. For more information on Medicare today initiative, please visit www.medicaretoday.org.

amount of school tax they are paying at that time is froze unless they make additions to the home."

Taxes are calculated by the following formula:
Market Value
- Exempt value
= Taxable value
x Rate per \$100 value
(taxing units governing body sets rate) (Divide the amount by \$100.)
= Tax Amount
(taxing unit's collector bills this amount).

Superintendent Rick Copp said, "If values do not go up the school will lose \$150,000 in funding, if values do go up the school will lose \$50,000."

While Mrs. Osborn said she has great concern for our school, she can not raise values just for the reason that a certain entity needs funding. "There are proper channels to follow, appraisals have to be backed up and there are guidelines to follow," she said.

It's curious to note that while some Motley County residents may complain about paying more in property taxes to help save the school, and while it's understood that all residents don't spend money on the lottery, in 2003 Motley County lottery sales totaled \$312,359. In 2004, Motley County lottery sales totaled \$311,153.

Motley County school board member, Tina Brooks, summed it up in these words, "What it all boils down to, is that if our school closes, our residents move, our businesses close, our county is gone."

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News Around the County

Roaring Springs News

By Lula Swim

Attention Roaring Springs residents!

If you have news
items to add to this
column, please call

Lula Swim at 348-7926
or the
Tribune office at 347-2400

LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP MEETS

The Ladies Bible Study met in the home of Mrs. Jeff Braselton, Monday, March 14. P.K. Green was in charge of the meeting in the absence of Freida Burns. Mrs. Green also conducted the business meeting. There were 16 ladies present. Mrs. Donalda Letkeman gave her life testimony.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Peacock spent the weekend here with his parents,

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peacock. Joyce Meredith accompanied by Carla Meador, Sherry and Shea Rose and Steve Smith, visited her sister, Shirley Smith, in SCCI Hospital in Amarillo, Saturday. Mrs. Smith is showing some improvement. She remains a patient in the ICU.

Harold Parks underwent triple by-pass heart surgery at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock, Monday. He is reported to be doing well.

WESLEYAN GUILD

The Methodist Wesleyan Guild met Wednesday, March 3 at the home of JoEtta Bumgardner in Matador.

Minutes were read and approved. Debbie Martin gave the devotional, "Don't You Know." The lesson was on the book, "40 Days of Purpose."

The next meeting will be held March 23 at 3:00 p.m. in the Roaring Springs Methodist Church fellowship hall. Callie Giesecke will be the hostess.

Matador News

J.D. RUSSELL TREATED TO LAS VEGAS BIRTHDAY TRIP

John Douglas Russell was treated to a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of his fortieth birthday. This is in keeping with the family tradition of major celebrations for significant birthdays. The trip was planned by his sisters and parents. During the excursion, the family attended the tournament at Excalibur, saw Legends at the Imperial Palace, watched the light and water show at the Bellagio, visited the M&M and Coca-Cola Shops, took a tour of the Hoover Dam, as well as participated in gaming at several of the casinos. The family flew out on Sunday morning, March 6th, and returned late on Tuesday evening.

Members of the family who took part in the celebration were John Douglas and D'Anna Russell, John and Dorothy Russell, and Marilyn and Randy Hicks of Matador, Caron and Jesse Perkins of Snyder, and Linda and Tom Roy of Weatherford.

Mrs. Geraldine Key returned home from Amarillo, Thursday, March 10 following major surgery and rehabilitation the past six weeks. She is much improved, but still has a long recovery.

Bill Moss, following heart surgery at the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock Feb. 28, was moved from the cardiac ICU Sunday night, March 13 to a private room on the cardiac floor.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Jameson and grandchildren, Jamie and Leanne Jameson are spending the Spring Break holidays at their home at Lake Kemp.

REMINDER OF HOMECOMING

The Whiteflat annual homecoming will be held Saturday, April 2 at the Senior Citizens building in Matador. Mrs. Frances Dixon, secretary of the Association is hoping for a good turn-out and would be appreciative of donations to the Whiteflat Cemetery Association.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

When driving in Pennsylvania during school spring holidays my family caught up to an Amish carriage.

The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor... attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign that read, "Energy efficient vehicle, runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not stop in exhaust."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Flomot Homecoming Association will have a meeting at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 20 at the Flomot Community Center. Plans are being made for the 2005 Flomot Homecoming. Anyone interested in the preparations are invited to attend. Your help will be appreciated.

Elected officials of the Association are Donnie Rogers, president, Donnie Cruse, vice president, and Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Martin attended the funeral services of her cousin, Claude Currie, 82, of Canyon held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 8 at the Memorial Park Funeral Home Chapel in Amarillo. Graveside rites were at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Amarillo.

Visiting Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay were son and family, Ty and Brittany Barclay and daughter, Tylee of Matador.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Foster of Lubbock visited the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Calvert

and brother Glen Calvert.

Chad Calvert of Bogota, Columbia arrived Wednesday and joined his wife, Cindy Calvert for a vacation visit in Flomot with her parents, Kathy and Clois Shorter. They will also visit in Turkey with his mother, Mrs. Wanda Calvert.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers and Donnie Rogers, Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Todd Washington of Abilene. They also visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Seab Washington.

Mrs. Kevon Kleibrink and children, Karlee and Kyler of Clifton visited from Sunday until Tuesday of last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay.

Mrs. Jackie Davis and son, Micheal of Fritch visited Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Lee visited in Lubbock, Saturday with his cousin, Mrs. Josephine Elam.

Amy and Cory Franks, Madison and Hudson of Lubbock visited the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks and brother, Cary Franks. Amy, Madison and Hudson remained to visit during the spring break holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hand of Roaring Springs visited Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay visited in Panhandle, Saturday with son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clay, Tanner, Sarah, and Kelsey. They enjoyed the basketball games in which Tanner played.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
3 John 2

Daffodil Day Festival - Celebration 2005

Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Round Rock Senior Center,

205 E. Main St. (across from library), Round Rock

- Food Booths
- Baked Goods
- Crafts
- Entertainment
- Auction (1:00 p.m.)
- Door Prizes

- F** For the Kids
R Coloring Books
E Candy
E Balloons
E Face Painting

Obituaries

Christine Briscoe

Funeral services for Christine Briscoe, 81, of Matador, were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 16, at the First Baptist Church in Matador with Rev. Jack Boggs, pastor, officiating. Interment was in East Mound Cemetery under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador.

Christine passed away Monday, February 14, 2005, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. She was born February 15, 1924 in Whiteflat to Frank and Rosa Kennedy Stafford. She was a lifelong resident of Motley County.

Christine married John Briscoe in 1939 at Paducah. She worked as a nurses aid at Stanley Hospital. She was a beauty shop owner and operator in Matador until her retirement. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Matador.

She is survived by her husband, John of Matador; two daughters, Pat Warren of Matador and Jane Clifton of Amarillo; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Harold Grayson Allen

Funeral services for Harold Grayson Allen, 86, of Streetman, Texas, were held Monday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Streetman. Officiating was Rev. Grayson Glass and Rev. Wayne Mahoney. Burial followed at St. Elmo Cemetery. Arrangements were by Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home of Fairfield.

Mr. Allen died March 11, 2005 at Fairfield, Texas. He was born September 3, 1918 in Streetman to S.H. Allen and Ila Glass Allen.

The oldest of five sons, he left home at an early age, working various jobs in agriculture, cook, and waiter. He married Geraldine Skaggs in Matador in 1939, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and returned to Matador going into the grocery business with his father-in-law, V.J. Skaggs. He later owned his own grocery store in Flomot. Due to health problems they moved to Springhill, Arkansas in 1951 and began producing chickens as a hobby. This became a full time career in the poultry industry, lasting until his retirement in Bryan, Texas in 1980. During that time he was instrumental in establishing commercial poultry and egg programs in Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, Kansas, Georgia, Tennessee,

and Texas. After his retirement he managed to stay busy driving a tractor and shredder for his brother Thomas in the Free-stone County area, and playing dominoes daily with old friends in Streetman. He liked country music and particularly loved Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, with his lifelong favorite song being "Faded Love." He will greatly be missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, S.H. "Stump" Allen and Ila Glass Allen; son, Dean Allen, 1992; two brothers, Kenneth and Bobby Allen.

Survivors are his wife Geraldine Allen of Streetman; son, Larry J. and wife Pat Allen of Streetman; brothers, Bill and wife Cholee Allen of Montgomery, Texas, Thomas and wife Blanch Allen of Fairfield; sister-in-law, Jackie Allen of Lumberton, Texas; grandchildren, Joseph and DuAnne Allen of Fairfield, W. Dean Allen of Beaumont; great-grandchildren, Nikki and Roman Osborn, Joshua and Lindsey Allen, Shaun and Miranda Allen, Ashley Allen; 3 great-great-grandchildren, Cynthia, Cecilia Osborn and Cameran Allen; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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ROMA LAUNDRY DETERGENT	4 LB. / \$3.09 EACH OR	2 FOR \$5.50
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FARM & RANCH NEWS

FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

By John Bird, Motley County CED

Appointments

As noted last week, we will begin requiring appointments for everything. This will be the only way for us to be able to efficiently complete all of our work with just two employees. Our number one priority is good, efficient service to our producers. Part of this is for us to do the work accurately the first time. By you making an appointment, we can devote our time solely to you and not feel rushed to get to the next person.

We will strive to complete what we are working on without any mistakes the first time. To do this, we will be sure we are completely finished with one producer before we go on to the next. If you come in without an appointment, you will have to wait a while. We will not take a signature on a blank form or have everything completed and waiting for a signature when you get here, because we will need your help in completing everything correctly. This will keep us from having to do it twice.

Crop Disaster Program

The official date for the beginning of Crop Disaster sign up was March 14; however, the software that we sign folks up on will not be available for "a week to ten days" according to the State FSA office.

The disaster program has changed very little from the previous program. Loss information will be taken from RMA or NAP data. If the producer did

not purchase either, he/she will either need to bring in production or the committee will assign production.

Producers may select either 2003 or 2004. This is not per farm but per producer. Producers must have suffered a 35% loss of production or 20% loss in quality to qualify.

Any money received from NAP, CDP, actual harvest, and crop insurance may not exceed 95% of the value of what the crop would have been in the absence of losses, regardless of the type of crop insurance a producer purchased. The overall payment limitation will be \$80,000.00 per producer.

If producers did not have crop insurance or NAP coverage during the disaster year, they will be required to purchase insurance for the next two available crop years. This is monitored very closely and failure to do this will result in having to refund all disaster benefits plus interest.

Fruits and Vegetables

Please remember, under the current farm bill producers may not grow fruits and vegetables on DCP acres. Many of our farms are fully based, which means that there is no room for fruits and vegetables. Planting FAV's will cause you to be out of compliance. The only exception for Motley County is if a farm has a history of planting FAV's they may do so, but there will be an acre for acre payment reduction on that year's DCP payments.

Cotton Marketing Seminar rescheduled for March 21

AMARILLO -- The one-day Advanced Topic Series course on Developing This Year's marketing Plan-Cotton, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, has been rescheduled to Monday, due to weather conditions.

The course will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday (March 21) at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West.

"Growing cotton is only half the battle," said Dr. Steve Amosson, area Extension economist. In order to be successful in their operations, producers also need to learn how to market the crop.

Participants will learn about the breakevens, fundamentals, technical signals and seasonal trends in cash, basis and forward contracts for cotton. In addition, different marketing strategies for both pre-and post-harvest marketing will be discussed.

The course will utilize a combination of lecture, small group work and simulation exercises to maximize the learning experiences similar to the Master Marketer training.

Instructors will be Dr. Carl Anderson, a recently retired Regents Fellow, professor and

Extension cotton marketing economist in College Station; and Dr. Jackie Smith, professor and Extension economist-management in Lubbock.

"If we are going to grow cotton, we better learn how to market it," Amosson said. Carl and Jackie have a combined 50 years experience in marketing cotton. I can't think of two individuals better qualified to serve as instructors for this course.

Due to rescheduling, additional registrations will be accepted at the door. Registrations \$75 per participant, which includes the cost of materials, breaks and lunches. Spouses can attend for the same registration fee as long as they share materials.

Registration forms are available through any Extension office, through Amosson or Margaret Freeman at (806) 677-5600.

Partial funding for this year's Advanced Topic Series is provided by the Southern Region Risk Management Education Center. It is also underwritten by the sponsors of the Master Marketer Educational System; Texas Wheat Producers Board, Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Farm Bureau and the State Cotton Support Committee.

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LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Motley County Tribune Weather March 17, 2005

7-Day Forecast



Thursday

Partly Cloudy
High: 56 Low: 40



Friday

Partly Cloudy
High: 64 Low: 40



Saturday

Partly Cloudy
High: 70 Low: 44



Sunday

Partly Cloudy
High: 68 Low: 39



Monday

Partly Cloudy
High: 65 Low: 37



Tuesday

Partly Cloudy
High: 71 Low: 42



Wednesday

Partly Cloudy
High: 70 Low: 40

In-Depth Forecast

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 56°, humidity of 32% and an overnight low of 40°. The record high temperature for today is 87° set in 1966. Friday, skies will remain partly cloudy with a high temperature of 64°.

Last Week's Local Almanac

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Saturday	63	41	63/36	0.01"
Sunday	68	52	63/36	0.05"
Monday	68	45	63/37	0.01"
Tuesday	68	32	64/37	0.00"
Wednesday	68	36	64/37	0.00"
Thursday	69	38	64/38	0.00"
Friday	73	36	65/38	0.00"

Weather History

March 17, 1990 - Showers and thunderstorms associated with a slow-moving cold front produced torrential rains across parts of the southeastern United States over a two-day period. Flooding claimed the lives of at least 22 people, including 13 people in Alabama.

Moon Phases

First 3/17 Full 3/25 Last 4/1 New 4/8



Precipitation0.07"
Normal precipitation0.28"
Departure from normal -0.21"

Average temperature54.0°
Average normal temperature . .50.2°
Departure from normal +3.8°

Data as reported from Childress, Texas

Sun & Moon Times

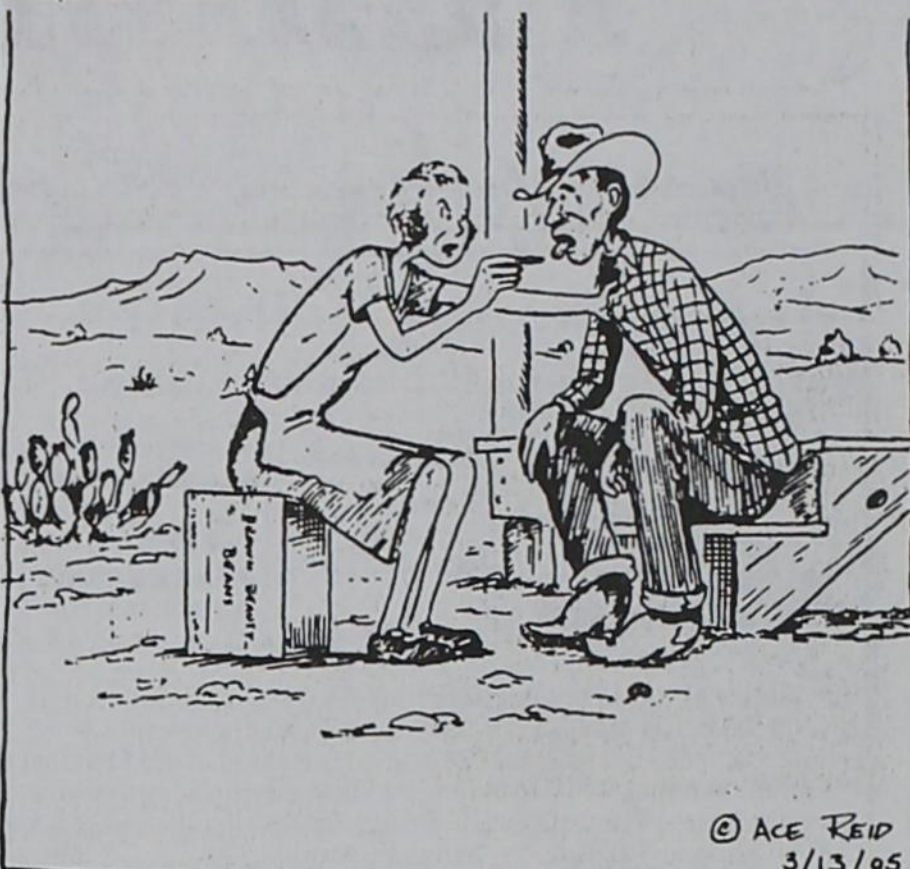
Sunrise today6:51 a.m.
Sunset tonight6:53 p.m.
Moonrise today11:21 a.m.
Moonset today1:48 a.m.

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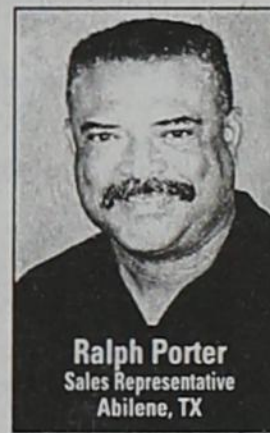
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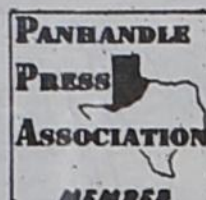
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Motley County Tribune

Carla M. Meador ~ Publisher & Editor



The Motley County Tribune, (ISSN: 0897-4322), purchased on September 3, 1996, is published weekly each Thursday, except Christmas week, at Matador, Texas. The office is located at 724 Dundee, telephone number, 806/347-2400. Periodical-class postage paid at Matador, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Motley County Tribune, P.O. Box 490, Matador, Texas 79244. NOTICE: Any erroneous reflection upon the character, firm, or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the Motley County Tribune will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Publisher. Only signed Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication.

PUBLICATION NO: 333770
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Motley County - \$24.00
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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S).

Dist/Div.: Childress
Contract 6110-19-001 for TYPE II FULL WIDTH MOWING in HARDEMAN County, etc. will be received on April 14, 2005, until 9:00 a.m. and opened on April 14, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$178,490.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit pre-qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
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