

2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



God Bless
America!

Motley County Tribune

"VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS"

50¢



THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2004

ESTABLISHED 1891

ISSUE NO. 1

Looking Back 2003 in review

The new year is upon us and 2003 is now a memory. The following headlines take a look back at what made news in 2003.

January 2

Injured Roaring Springs man making miraculous improvements

January 9

MC Jr. Class will sponsor Donkey Basketball Game

MC 6th graders complete All-Star Program

Pre-holiday winter storm brings last moisture for 2002

January 16

MC Matadors in District play

Matador VFD elects new officers

January 23

MC ISD approved for Rural School Program Grant

New DPS Trooper in Matador

Gregory Hendry is the new DPS Trooper in Matador

January sales tax allocations distributed

Matadors complete first round of basketball District play

January 30

Motley County Heart Fund campaign kicks off in February

Mother-Daughter Banquet set for February 17th

Anna's Mexican Restaurant brings festive flair to downtown Matador

Motley County Chamber plans upcoming projects

Fire Department elects new truck captains

February 6

63rd Annual Motley County Junior Livestock Show to be held February 22

Children's Ministry to begin in Roaring Springs

Dry weather, contrasting temperatures make up January weather

State Director of Tourism to speak in Roaring Springs

February 13

Community Blood Drive set to replenish supplies usually donated by the military

Longtime Tribune correspondent dies

Odesa Mullins, a longtime news correspondent to the Motley County Tribune, passed away Sunday, Feb. 9.

Participants gear up for livestock show

February 20

Motley County NHS to sponsor blood drive

February 27

Legacy Exploration is a reality in Motley County

Market Matador receives big donation of city lots

March 6

Motley County listed among Texas counties where shuttle material may be found

February was another dry month in Motley County

March 13

Local DPS Trooper helping with shuttle Columbia debris recovery

Local DPS Trooper Mark Gumaer, has been helping with the Shuttle Columbia recovery.

Local VFD holds fourth annual Wildland Fire School

March 20

Rural Texans have much at stake in Legislative Session

Teachers' contracts renewed

More candidates enter race for May elections

March 27

Reality of American War felt in Motley County

Two accidents occur in one week west of Matador

Economic sales tax increase will take effect April 11

One Act Play competes at Zone

Local Athletes Dominate

The Motley County Track and Field Complex was the sight of a dominating effort by the Matadors and Lady Mats on March 14. The Lady Mats won the team championship and the Matadors finished second overall.

April 10

Ken Young studio now open in downtown Roaring Springs

Tribune will honor soldiers

Motley County MCYO prepares for upcoming softball season

Girl's Golf Team brings home District title

April 3

Sen. Duncan urges West Texans to keep troops in prayers

April 17

Old Settlers board plans upcoming celebration

Early voting now in progress for May 3rd elections

April 24

Meet the School Board Candidates

Roaring Springs City Council hires city lawyer

Matador VFD conduct storm spotting training course

May 1

2nd Annual 70-mile Garage Sale event will take place May 3

State Bound

Cassie Campbell qualified for the state Golf meet by placing 5th at the Regional level.

MC Girls Golf Team competes at Regional

May 8

April kicked-off turbulent weather season in Motley County

Former Motley County resident promoted to Colonel

Large early voter turn-out for school board election

May 15

2003 Motley County Honor Graduates Names

Project Graduation party plans made

May 22

First phase of Bob's Oil Well restoration slated for Saturday

New School Board members take oath of office

June 5

Rainfall still below average in Motley County

Library receives grant

City wide clean-up Program underway

continued on page 5

Texas Hwy. 70 Association announces Christmas Lighting contest winners

The Texas Highway 70 Association has announced the winners of their 2003 Christmas Lighting Contest. Decorated homes from Spur to Turkey were judged in each town for the best lighting displays. Each town was judged by a different set of judges and plaques were awarded to first, second and third places.

Winners in Matador were Tim Ward and Lindy Jameson, first place; Roy and Frances Hobbs, second place; Edna Eades and Betty Henry, third place.

Roaring Springs: First, Delmar Fairley; second, Joe Martinez; third, LaVoe Thacker.

Flomot: First, Sandra and Jerry Barclay; second, C.L. Hacker and D.D. Payne; third, Roger Lee.

Spur: First, Mary Hinson; second, Steve Burleson; third, Sparky Echols.

Dickens: First, Courthouse; second, Larry Roberts; third, Lee Hicks.

Turkey: First, Jan and Joy Turner; second, Ronald and Ginger Mullin; third, Cora Williams.

Strayhorn gives Texans good news for the holidays

State Sales Tax Revenue up for third month in a row

(Austin) -- "State sales tax revenue is up for the third month in a row," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said recently. "The last time state sales tax revenue increased three months in a row was July - September, 2001, before 9-11."

"November sales tax revenue is up 4.3 percent compared to November 2002. This is the largest growth since August 2001, before the terrorists' attacks," she said. The state received \$1.36 billion in sales tax revenue in November.

"This is great news, considering the state had an historic, unfortunate first of two years of declining sales tax revenue in fiscal years 2002 and 2003," Strayhorn said.

"Last December, the Grinch stole Christmas," Strayhorn said. "We were seeing declining sales tax revenue at both the state and the local level, and tough economic times were also taking a toll on other revenue sources. This year, the grinch isn't going to steal Christmas. State sales tax revenue is up and overall, local taxing entities will receive more sales tax this calendar year than they took in last calendar year."

Local sales tax revenue is up for the sixth consecutive month, the Comptroller reported as she sent Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their final sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003. Strayhorn sent local sales tax allocations totaling \$306.6 million. December sales tax allocations to local government are up 4.9 percent compared to December 2002 and local sales tax allocations for calendar year 2003 are up 0.7 percent compared to last year.

Strayhorn sent sales tax payments of \$208.9 million to Texas cities, up 6.2 percent compared to December 2002. For calendar year 2003, city sales tax allocations are up 1.9 percent compared to 2002. Texas counties received December sales tax payments of \$17.7 million, up 5 percent compared to one year ago. Counties' sales tax allocations for 2003 are 1.7 percent higher than 2002.

Eighty-one special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$8.2 million in sales tax, up 3 percent compared to last December. For the calendar year, sales tax allocations to special purpose districts are up 1.9

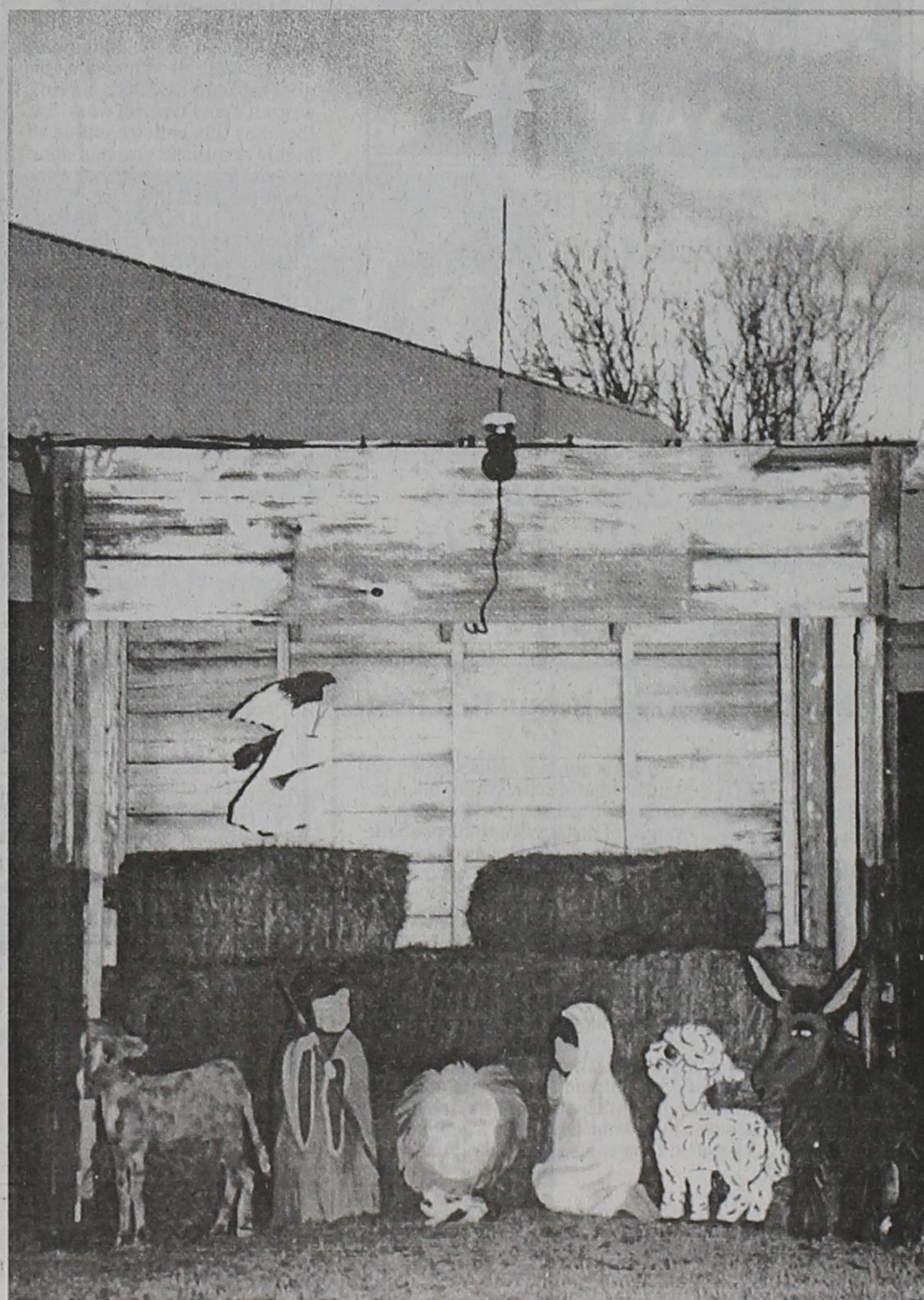
percent compared to 2002. Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems received \$71.8 million in December sales tax allocations, up 1.8 percent compared to a year ago. Transit systems are the only local taxing entities that saw their overall sales tax revenue decline in 2003 — down 2.9 percent compared to 2002.

State sales tax revenue for November, and December sales tax allocations to local governments represent sales made in October and reported to the Comptroller in November.

Matador, with a current rate of 2.000%, received a net payment of \$3,479.21, compared to \$1,987.93 at this time last year, a percent change of 75.01%. 2003 payments to date are \$41,309.95, compared to \$28,793.46 in 2002, a 43.46% change.

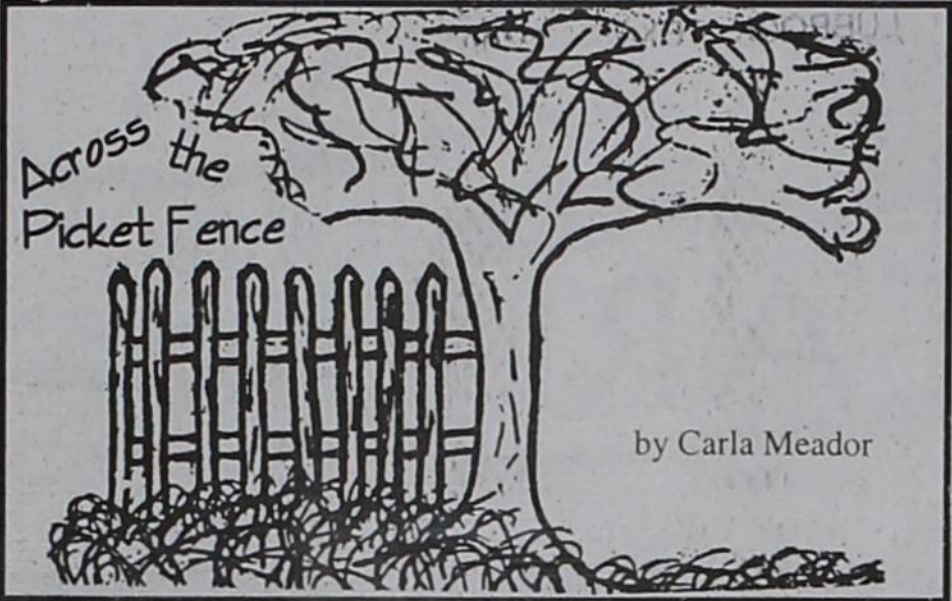
Roaring Springs, with a current rate of 2.000%, received a net payment of \$4,887.72, compared to \$1,258.48 last year, a 288.38% change. 2003 payments to date are \$37,412.40, compared to \$27,935.71 in 2002, a 33.92% change.

The Comptroller's next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, January 9.



Hope for the New Year . . .

This Nativity Scene is displayed on the lawn of the First Baptist Church in Roaring Springs. Church members cut out and painted the figures and built the stable. The holiday scene is only one of many around the county. With the dawning of 2004 the scene reminds passersby of the love of Jesus Christ and hope for the New Year.



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with lots of fun and family time. With the holiday vacation, I can't seem to keep my days straight. Although I was closed last week and did not print a paper, I was at the office everyday except Christmas day, but since there was no paper, I never really knew what day it was. Are you like that? My days always run on Thursdays anyway, since that's paper day, and that's the date I use on everything when working on the week's paper. So, I guess I'm really mixed up most of the time. I think Jim would agree.

The holidays are more fun when there are children around. Their excitement fills the air

and is contagious. My grandchildren, Morgan and Judson, make our Christmas special and their excitement and anticipation is such a joy. And at the same time, as young as they are, they truly know the real meaning of the Christmas season. Morgan said it all in a prayer she recently said at Sunday School - "Thank You, God, for letting us celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas."

My sweet cousin, Belinda, spent her first Christmas in Heaven. She went to meet Jesus on Wednesday, December 17. For any of you who may of said a prayer, thank you.

My prayer is that you will be greatly blessed in this New Year.

Library Notes

by Suzanne Abbott, Librarian

We appreciate the donation to the library by Earline Vaughn in memory of Bill Koon. Bill was a good Friend of the Library.

We received a big box of children's books just before Christmas. They are ready now to be checked out and enjoyed. Two delightful books for fun reading are *To Market, To Market* and *Anna's Tight Squeeze*. Children of all ages will enjoy these two books. Also included in this shipment is a Spider-Man book for the children who read the Easy books. It is called *Spider-Man Saves the Day*.

When was the last time you read *Three Billy Goats Gruff*? The library now has a copy with splendid illustrations. If your child or grandchild is just learning to read, he or she might like the *Road To Reading, Mile 2*,

book *The Tail of Little Skunk*. This book is for children who recognize some words and can sound out others with help.

Oops, Sorry! is a first book of manners for small children. If you have a child who has had or is soon to have any kind of X-Ray, including ultrasound, MRI or CAT scan, *Jessica's X-Ray* is a book that tells all about these diagnostic tools.

It includes actual films of various kinds. There were many other books in this box. Come to the library to check out one of these colorful, new books.

In the non-fiction Juvenile section of the library the new books include *Girls and their Horses True Tales from American Girl*. We have *Rodeo Roping*, also, of course about horse riders. Happy New Year to all our patrons!

NEW YEAR'S SALE

ALL FURNITURE
and Selected Art Pieces
20% - 40% OFF

Custom Framing
Lay-away Available

Come find a treasure at
Calico Treasures
Decorator's Studio

Matador 806-347-2003

Season's Greetings to our Readers

This is our last article for the calendar year of 2003. Where did it go? This year will soon belong to the pages of history. We think of all the things we wanted to accomplish in 2003 and some of them we did get done.

I want to thank all of our faithful readers for the kind words offered to encourage me in writing of these articles. The thoughtful notes of expressions of your appreciation has proven a constant source of delight to me. I thank you for your kindness.

We are in a fun time of the year. The excitement felt by our children of the community is contagious. Perhaps you along with me share in the children's anticipation of what the holiday brings. Family time, warm hugs, moist eyes and a genuine feeling of well-being. The good food is also something that is eagerly anticipated.

There is someone else. Coming with the close of the year is also reflections on the year passed. The months of 2003 have gone by and with their passing opportunities, challenges and some disappointments. The year has brought us a host of changes in nearly every aspect of our lives.

For Judy Ann and myself, we thank you for your generosity toward us. It has warmed our hearts. Let us wish for you all, the best during this holiday season and may the coming year bring all of you happiness and a closer walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

Motley County Lifestyles

El Progreso Club celebrates Christmas

by Beverly Vinson

A beautiful day dawned on Saturday, December 13, when El Progreso Club members met in the home of D.A. and Ruby McGuire in Roaring Springs to celebrate their annual Christmas luncheon and gift exchange. The home was beautiful with many Christmas decorations of the traditional Christmas tree and a table with holiday "written all over it." Food was plentiful and varied carrying out the food of the holiday from turkey and dressing, cranberry salad,

veggies of several kinds and dessert that nearly everyone was too full to take more than just a sliver.

Grace Campbell returned thanks for the friends of El Progreso and the reason we celebrate the season

Grace was also the leader for the day introducing Jo Ann Dickson who provided another of her marvelous Christmas stories she had penned especially for the club (and others who have learned about her writing ability). This was THE FIRST CHRISTMAS MIRACLE. It was written about a little black sheep among a flock of white ones. To preface her story, and I quote, "This story is meant as a allegory of the salvation experience. We are born in sin and darkness. Faith and belief in Christ born on Christmas takes away the black of sin and brings us into the light of salvation." This episode takes place in the Judean hills where it is common to see flocks of sheep and the occasional black one. The tale goes on from there with a Angel appearing before a grieving ewe who had lost her lamb. She wanted nothing to do with the black lamb but the Angel told her if she adopted the little black lamb at least it would not starve. The Angel went away disgusted with the ewe's attitude. The ewe finally went to where the lamb lay and it partook of her milk.

The story continues with the Lamb of God and what a lovely story it was. Jo Ann is such an accomplished writer having written many types of work, but the ones this club treasures so highly are those she has done the past five years with her work in 1984 of THE INNKEEPER'S SON; A CHRISTMAS FABLE (Jasmine's Story) in 2000; THREE LITTLE KINGS AND THE LEGEND OF THE GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH written in 2001; then in 2002 she penned THE DONKEY THAT CARRIED MARY to follow with the one for this year, THE FIRST CHRISTMAS MIRACLE. As she told the tale a little black stuffed lamb appeared on the arm of her chair and then later on when the little black lamb brushed against the Christ child it turned white and a little white stuffed lamb appeared on the other arm of her chair.

As a gift to each member, Mrs. Dickson presented copies of all her stories in a folder, something all will cherish for many years.

The closing thought for the day was "A Christmas Prayer" by Helen Steiner Rice, recited by Lana Copp.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER
Oh, Father up in Heaven,
We have wandered far away.
From the holy little Christ
Child who was born on
Christmas Day.
And the Peace on Earth
You promised,
We have been unmindful of,
Not believing we could find it
In a simple thing called love.
We've forgotten why You sent
us Jesus Christ,
Your only Son, and in
arrogance and ignorance it's
it's our will and not thine be
done. Oh, forgive us,
Heavenly Father,
Teach us how to be more kind,
So that we may judge all
people with our heart and not
our mind. And, oh God,
in Thy great goodness,
may our guidance
Christmas night be the
Star the Wise Men followed,
Not a man-made satellite.

Following the meaningful program the group enjoyed gift exchange using The Wright Family with Christmas ornament being the gifts. A hilarious time was had by all as going for left to right during the reading of the short story kept all in a quandary.

Those attending, in addition to those already mentioned, were Billie Koon, Lana Copp, Elaine Hart, Sharon Allen, Loys Campbell, Joetta Bumgardner, Dorothy Day, Lucretia (R.E.) Campbell and Beverly Vinson.



HONORED ON 90TH BIRTHDAY — Former Matador resident, Cora Hall, recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends at the First Baptist Church in West Seattle, Washington. Her granddaughter, Debra LeDahl organized a lovely luncheon complete with a beautiful floral arrangement and birthday balloons. Cora continues to enjoy corresponding with many friends and family across the country and can be reached at 9659-25th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98106.

NOTICE

The City of Roaring Springs will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Roaring Springs Community Volunteers' building at 7:00 o'clock, January 6, 2004, to explain grants available for building new homes or repairing an existing home for low income home owners at no cost to the home owner.

Brian Grimes with GRANT WORKS, INC. of Lubbock will be present to answer questions you may have about qualifying for this program.

If you need a ride to attend this meeting call Corky Marshall at 348-7000 or Alex Crowder at 348-7336.

Corky Marshall
Mayor
Roaring Springs

HACKBERRY CREEK CARE CENTER TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Hackberry Creek Care Center Steering Committee will host 3 informational meetings for the public on January 8th. The meetings are scheduled at different times and locations in the county to encourage the attendance of all interested parties.

Jan. 8th	1:00 p.m.	Matador	Senior Citizens Center
Jan. 8th	5:30 p.m.	Matador	Senior Citizens Center
Jan. 8th	7:00 p.m.	Roaring Springs	Community Center

These meetings are being held to allow everyone the opportunity to view the plans that the architect has drawn up and learn what opportunities the Nursing Home will bring to the County. Anyone interested in this project is welcome to attend any of the scheduled meetings and bring with them any questions about the facility or its functions.

Also, scheduled for the month of January is an Annual Membership Meeting. This meeting will be held on January 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Citizens Center in Matador. This meeting will open the organization up to a general membership. The general membership of the Hackberry Creek Care Center will elect a board of directors at the meeting and will also have the opportunity to voice any concerns. The membership fee is \$5.00 per person per year.

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Winter Clearance Sale

Starts Jan. 7th

50% - 75% off

We will be closed until Jan. 7th

New To You

Downtown Matador

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET

CHECK OUT OUR CONVENIENCE STORE!

WASHETERIA,
FOOD BAR, GROCERIES

"A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING!"

Lottery Tickets & Scratch Off Tickets Available!

THE HITCHIN' POST

Downtown Roaring Springs ★ 348-7205

THE MATADOR

— SCHOOL NEWS & HAPPENINGS —



Motley County Elementary students enjoyed singing Christmas carols, led here by Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Barbara Parks, during the school's Christmas program held the last week of school before the holiday break.



Start off the New Year
with something special
from

Matador Floral

Designs by Vickie

Downtown Matador ~ 806-347-2018

Mane Place

1134 1/2 Main St. ~ Matador

Hair Care for the Entire Family

SISTER'S GIFTS

Hours: Tues. - Fri., 9:00 - 5:00

347-2953

Saturday - by Appointment

347-2350



Cobey Turner receives Bachelor's Degree

Cobey Turner breathed a huge sigh of relief on Saturday, December 20, when he graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and Applied Economics. Cobey has worked hard for the last few years to attain this goal. He maintained a 4.0 gpa for the Fall Semester and graduated with an overall 3.4 gpa. He has represented Motley County well.

After the ceremony, his parents, Johnney and Carol Ann Turner, hosted a party to celebrate Cobey's graduation. There were numerous guests including his wife, Janell, and family and friends.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

— Ephesians 6:1

Students collect for 2003 Christmas canned food drive

Motley County students collected canned foods for the 2003 Lions Club and Motley County Student Council Christmas Canned Food Drive. The school collected a total of 545 pounds of food to be distributed to the County's needy.

Students in Pre-K collected 32 pounds; Kindergarten, 69; First Grade, 105; Second Grade, 22; Third Grade, 20; Fourth Grade, 21; Fifth Grade, 73; Sixth Grade, 14; Seventh Grade, 6; Eighth Grade, none; Ninth Grade, 13; Tenth Grade, 5; Eleventh Grade, none; Twelfth Grade, 165.



7TH GRADE UIL PARTICIPANTS — Pictured left to right, Aaron Bethard, Courtney Alexander, Kayla Hollinsworth, Nikki Sims. Jr. High UIL participants received recognition at the Christmas program.



8TH GRADE UIL PARTICIPANTS — Pictured left to right, Stacy Perryman, Alec Dodson, Bradley Brown, Isiah Archer, Mylissa Gilmore, Kristy Smith and Leatrice Gutierrez.

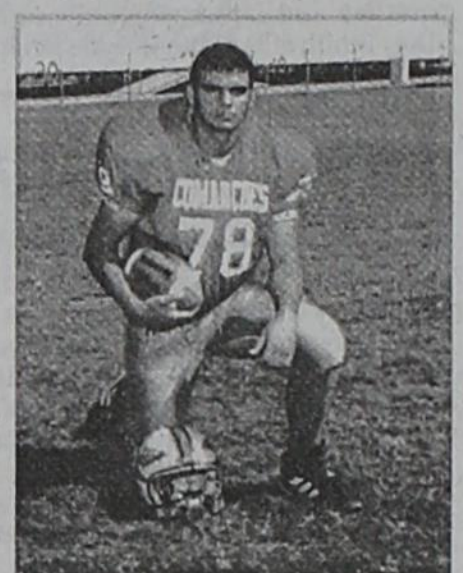
Former Matador named to Coaches All-District 6-2A Football Team

John Wesley Stevens, a former Motley County Matador, was recently named to the Coaches' All-District 6-2A Football Team.

Stevens, a 6'3", 215 lb. Jr. from West Texas High School in Stinnett was voted to the 1st Team Offense along with players from Panhandle, Canadian and Highland Park.

Other schools in the powerful District 6-2A are Sanford-Fritch, Spearman and Boys Ranch.

Stevens was also named to the 2nd Team Defense. He is the son of Betty Stevens of Stinnett and Steve Stevens of Matador, and the grandson of the late John V. and Helen Stevens of Matador.



John Wesley Stevens

The Lord is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29

Attention Matador - NOW is the Time!

Sign Up!

CapRock Tv

121 E. Third St. Spur, Texas

806-271-3003

Matador Community Sign-Up Meeting

Wednesday, January 7

1:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Matador Senior Citizens Center



Don't Miss Out!
Receive:

FREE Installation
FREE Equipment
FREE All-Day Movie Ticket
High Speed Internet Savings

This is a limited time opportunity for eligible customers who receive a "Golden Ticket". New customer installations after the initial sign-up period will be responsible for installation and necessary equipment charges.

Channel Program

1	Cap Rock News
3	TBS
4	KXTX-PBS
5	WGN
6	KUPT-UPN
7	KLBK-CBS
8	KAMC-ABC
9	Nickelodeon
10	KJTV-FOX
11	KCBD-NBC
12	Cartoon Network
13	Disney
14	Toon Disney
15	KXTQ-Telemundo
16	KPTB-GLC
17	KBZO-Univision
19	ABC Family
20	Animal Planet
21	Discovery
22	Boomerang
23	Lifetime
24	National Geographic
26	TV Land
29	ESPN
30	ESPN2
31	Fox Sports SW
32	Fox ACCU Weather
33	The Golf Channel
34	The Outdoor Channel
35	Speed Vision
39	MSNBC
40	CNN
41	CNN Headline News
42	Fox News
43	Health Network
47	MTV
48	VH1
49	CMT
56	Lifetime Movie Network
57	Oxygen
58	AMC
59	Game Show Network
61	HGTV
62	Travel Channel
63	The Learning Channel
64	History Channel
65	Home Shopping Network
66	Food Network
69	BET
70	A&E
71	E! Entertainment
73	USA
75	TNT
76	Spike TV
100-144	DMX Music
150-152	HBO
153-159	Encore
160-64	Starz!
170-175	PPV

News Around the County

Roaring Springs News

By Lula Swim

Christmas Eve guests of Joe and Joyce Meredith were Jackie and Shirley Smith, Steve Smith, Jim and Carla Meador, Tony, Sherry, Shea Rose, Sean Rose, all of Matador; Jeremy, Whitney, Morgan and Judson Jones of Lubbock; and local residents, Randy and Holly Meredith, Wylie and John Hodges, Yancy, Daphne and Parker Meredith. The group enjoyed supper, visiting, singing Christmas carols, and exchanging gifts.

The Postal Group met at the Hitchin' Post on Thursday, Dec. 11, to celebrate Miss Lula Swim's birthday. Those attending were the honoree, Miss Swim, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zabielski of Roaring Springs; Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Giesecke, Mrs. Juanita Cooper of Matador; and Mr. and Mrs. William Brown of Dickens.

Mrs. Sammie Phillips drove Lula Swim to Lubbock on Tuesday where she kept an appointment with her eye doctor. They met Rev and Mrs. Johnnie Williams for lunch at Furr's.

Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Adams, Brian, Tyler and Madison of Tahoka visited her grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hand last Saturday for lunch.

Joyce Smith and Dean McInroe attended the graduation of Chad Smith from the University of Texas at Dallas. They joined Chad's mother and father, Michelle and Don Smith of Dallas and Julie Brian

and Ellie Marie DePoalo of Houston.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Mrs. LaVoe Thacker hosted her community tea in her lovely decorated home for Christmas, Saturday, December 13. There were about 75 attending from Abilene, Lubbock, Amarillo and Spur, as well as local ladies. Mrs. Donna Hoyle and Mrs. Pam Thacker shared hostess duties with LaVoe. Mrs. Joyce Smith was in Dallas attending her grandson's (Chad Smith) graduation.

PREDICTA STUDY CLUB HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Christmas party for Predicta Study Club was held at the home of Mrs. LaVoe Thacker, Tuesday, December 16. Mrs. Thacker was in charge. Mrs. Joyce Smith read the Christmas Story, as recorded in the Book of Luke. She also read a story on life experiences and a prayer.

Mrs. Thacker offered a lot of goodies to eat and the group enjoyed a tree after the program. Those attending, in addition to Mrs. Thacker and Mrs. Smith, were Mrs. Jo Crowder, Mrs. Nona Long, Mrs. Callie Giesecke, Mrs. Pam Thacker, Lula Swim and a guest, Mrs. Pearl Patten.

Matador News

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Minton of Granbury visited a short time Tuesday, Dec. 23 with her mother, Mrs. Juanita Cooper. Returning to their home on Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Juanita Cooper and Mrs. Dan Barton accompanied them. Mrs. Barton's daughter, Mrs. Cherrie Karr met them in Weatherford and continued to her home in Whitney. Mrs. Karr and daughter Connie accompanied the ladies back to Matador, December 27. Mrs. Cooper spent Dec. 19-22 in Amarillo with her daughter and family, Ken, Kay and Courtney Dunnam, celebrating an early Christmas.

Visiting during the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. H.R. "Skeet" Jameson were Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Jameson and Shanna Lou of Santa Fe, N.M., Lance Jameson and Vickie Fennell of Vernon.

At newtime, Charles "Chig" Gwinn is a patient at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock under treatment for pneumonia.

Christmas eve guests of Mrs. Frances Dixon were Elaine and Fred Risser and daughter, Kaci Risser, student at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Martin, son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Martin and Colton were guests Christmas day in the home of his uncle and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Martin of Lubbock.

Other guests were Mrs. Kathryn Martin, resident at Oak Heritage Center in Lubbock; Sharon, Mike and Kristy Davis of Fritch; Carol, Nathan and Susan Gilbreth and Kathy and Jody Townsend of Sundown.

Those attending a Christmas eve family celebration at the Gwinn home in Matador were Aly Gwinn, Mrs. Sarah Hurt, Emily and Annie of Lubbock; Cris Gwinn of Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, Danielle and Fannin of Whiteflat; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Halcomb of Floydada; Charles "Chig" Gwinn and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raetz of Matador.

OBITUARIES

Don T. Martin

Don T. Martin, 89, longtime resident of Hereford, Texas, passed away Sunday, December 21, 2003, at the Westgate Nursing Center in Hereford.

Funeral services were held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 23, 2003, at the First United Methodist Church in Hereford, under the direction of Parkside Chapel Funeral Home of Hereford. Rev. Darren Skinner officiated. The family held a private interment.

Mr. Martin was born January 11, 1914, in Stamford, TX, the son of Victor and Hattie Martin. He married

Betty Jo Simpson on June 10, 1939, in Matador and they lived in Hereford since 1946.

Survivors include his wife, Betty of the home; one son, Fred David Martin of Georgetown; one daughter, Nancy Jo Cwelich of Erie, Colorado; one sister, Fay Pundt of Houston; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by 3 brothers and a sister.

The family requests memorials to the First United Methodist Church Renovation Fund, 501 N. Main, Hereford, TX 79045 or a favorite charity.

Audrey Murphy

Audrey Murphy, of Rankin, passed away Tuesday, December 23, 2003, at Midland Memorial Hospital.

She was born April 28, 1918, to Dayton Wright and Martha Mattie Ratliff in Miles, Texas, and moved to Matador, Texas as a small child where she attended Whiteflat School. On June 17, 1933, she married Carter C. Murphy in Whiteflat. The couple moved to West Texas in 1939 living in Fort Stockton before moving to Rankin in 1949. Audrey worked for Johnson's Department Store for 17 years when her children were growing up and still found time to be involved with their activities. She devoted her life to the Lord at age 12 and served as a godly example to her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Carter C. Murphy in 1984 and her son Donald Carter Murphy in 1963.

Audrey is survived by her daughters, Audrey Foster and her husband, Larry of Midland; Martha Farris and her husband, Jesse of

Odessa; grandchildren, Donna Jones and husband, Steve; J.B. Farris and wife, Mary; Clay Farris and wife, Roni; Cheryl Cunningham and husband, Tony; Darrel Farris and wife, Brenda; Gregory Foster and wife Gina; Tracie Law and husband, Jimmy; Mike Murphy and wife, Denise; 17 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 26 at the First United Methodist Church in Rankin, Texas, with Stan Whites officiating. Interment followed at Rankin Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Audrey's grandsons, Steve Jones, J.B. Farris, Clay Farris, Tony Cunningham, Darrel Farris, Gregory Foster and Jimmy Law.

Memorials may be directed to First United Methodist Church, 811 Half Street, Rankin, TX 79778.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

Something to think about as we embark on a New Year.... To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To have a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. Be an optimist, one who makes the best of it when he gets the worst of it.

Mr. and Mrs. Butch Hughes had a pre Christmas family celebration Saturday, December 20 in their home. Guests were son, Bengie Hughes of Royce City, Texas, who spent the weekend; Billy Don and Becky Hughes, Brennan and Baylee and Mrs. Marsha Blake of Lubbock; Roger and Tiffany Hughes, Reagan and Tara, Rickey and Tasha Hughes and Kendal of Floydada and Keith Rogers of Petersburg.

The First Baptist Church in Flomot held Candlelight Services Sunday night, Dec. 21 with the Rev. Nathan Mulder conducting the spiritual event. Refreshments were served in the Fellowship Hall following the services.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Martin were guests in Borger, Dec. 21 for a Christmas luncheon in the home of daughter and husband, Marilee and Fred Cooper. Other guests were Lindsay Martin of Amarillo, Cole Martin, student at Texas A&M University in College Station, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cooper and Mr. and Mrs. Cory Cooper and Gavin of Borger.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Lee during the holidays were Brenda and Joey Lee, Mrs. Margie Howe and Ernie Lee of Clarendon; Shonda Davey of Plainview, Roger Lee, Josh and Brandon of Flomot; Mrs. Teresa Lee, Kellan, Kacey and Micah of Turkey, Thomas Heck and Coby Heck of San Antonio.

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Williams, Pecos and Kelby visited Christmas Day in Plainview with her sister and family, Mrs. Sue Looney.

Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton was a guest Saturday night at a family Christmas party in Matador held in the home of Dixie and Bundy Hal Campbell.

Donnie Rogers and mother, Mrs. B. Rogers were in Amarillo, Friday where they met his daughters, Natalie and Brooke Rogers of Lindale at the Airport and accompanied them here to visit until Jan. 5th. They visited B's sister, Mrs. Merle Nall, under Hospice Care, before returning to Flomot.

Holiday visitors of Mrs. Leona Degan were children and families Donna and Stanley Degan of Kalgary, Shay and Jimmy McDaniel and Seth of Lubbock; Lou and Morris Degan of Medicine Mound and Jerry and Sheila Gilbert of Jacksonville, Alabama. Jerry and Sheila also visited in Quitaque with his mother, Mrs. Christeen Gilbert.

Visiting during the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Bill D. Washington and Mrs. Edith Washington were Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barclay and houseguests, Mr. and Mrs. Lance Barclay, Colton and Kayla of Jacksonville, Mr. and Mrs. Cody Barclay, Lane and Ashton of Borger, Ty and Brittany Barclay of Matador; Mr. and Mrs. Coy Franks and houseguests, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Franks and Madison, Cary Franks of Lubbock and Mrs. Cara Carson of Flomot; Mr. and Mrs. Tim Washington of Roaring Springs and Mr. and Mrs. Conway Clary, Mickey, Caleb and Kenzie of Matador.

Christmas day guests of Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse were Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Cruse and houseguests, Regina and Chad Seward, Allyson, Quaid and Macy of Goldthwaite; Deirda, Larry and Skylar Clifton of Cisco; Derinda, Mark, Thor, Tory, Tally and Teah Patton of Silverton; Roegan, Talon and Keane Cruse, Brandon, Jodi, Baylor and Branson Cruse of Turkey; Mr. and Mrs. Chancey Cruse of Clarendon; Leah Cruse of Lubbock; Derrick Cruse of Canyon and Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse of Flomot; Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, Fannin and Danielle of Whiteflat.

Holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kendall, Jere, Jacob and Mr. and Mrs. Travis Kendall were Mr. and Mrs. Cory Kendall, Conner and Chancey of Midland and Jere Banewski of Houston.

Lucretia and Breck Dockery and daughter, Brittany of Vernon and Kayla and Neil Guest of Turkey visited during the holidays with their parents, Carolyn and Arnold Johnson.

Holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ross were daughter and husband Elisa and Stan Wigley, Dave Wigley, Phillip Wigley and son of Lubbock. Tom is under medical treatment for congested heart.

Visiting during the holidays with Mrs. C.W. Starkey, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey and Johnnie Starkey were Mrs. Nola Long and Clifton of Winewood, Okla.; Michael Starkey of Canyon; Mrs. Jackie Davis of Fritch; Mrs. Bobbi Hanna of Warner, Okla.; Margie and Homer Cypert of Lockney; Mr. and Mrs. L.T. Starkey and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd T. Starkey of Ralls; Mr. and Mrs. Monty George of Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Weaver of Olton; Mrs. Ersie VanCleave of Dougherty and Phylis and Royce Gladson of Austin.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jones of Carlsbad, N.M. arrived Saturday, Dec. 27 to visit the holidays with Mr.

and Mrs. Orville Lee. They are also visiting in Quitaque with Mrs. Ellen Skinner and other relatives.

Christmas day guests of Mrs. Edith Washington were Mr. and Mrs. Todd Washington, Cam, Clay, Conner and Katie of Childress. They also visited Quitaque during the holidays with Buster and Ann Chadwick, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Seab Washington of Flomot.

Holiday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay were Lori and Kevon Kleibrink, Karlee and Kyler of Clifton, Tina and Pat Carson, Walker, Ryleigh and Parker and Mrs. Margaret Lane of Turkey; Larry and Angelia, Clay, Tanner, Kelsey and Sarah of Panhandle and Julie and Neal Edwards and Caden and Mrs. Geneva Martin of Flomot.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Stark during the holidays were Lt. Wes Stark, stationed at Air Force Base in Del Rio, his friend, Erin Nelson of Bastrop and Mindy Stark of Austin.

Vickie, Jason and Whitney Browning of Canyon visited the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Browning, Malcolm and Jessica. They were guests Christmas day in Childress of her mother, Mrs. Virgie O'Daniel. Malcolm, Jason and Whitney visited Christmas eve in Rising Star with Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Browning.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Cruse and holiday visitors, children, Leah Cruse of Lubbock, Keane Cruse of Turkey and Derrick Cruse, student at A&M University in Canyon were guests Christmas eve in the home of her mother, Mrs. Marihelen Wason in Matador. Other guests were Charla and Bennie Marracle of Snyder; Shahala and Allen Hoelscher and Kaycee Marracle of Lubbock and Mark and Kathleen Wason and Dalton of Casper, Wyoming.

Alvia Joe Calvert of Dumas, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Foster, Ashley Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Mandrell and Peyton of Lubbock visited during the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Calvert and Glen Calvert.

Visiting during the holidays in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clois Shorter were Christi and Dwayne Milam, Emily and Haley of Petrolia; Kerri and Kevin Sehon and Brian Sehon of Ropesville; Cindy and Chad Calvert of Warrenton, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Shorter, Mrs. Geneva Martin and Mr. and



Billy Farley presents Buzz Thacker with the Masonic Golden Trowel award.

Buzz Thacker receives top Mason award

A surprise presentation took place on Tuesday, December 16, when the Golden Trowel award was presented to Brother Buzz Thacker. The Matador Masonic Lodge met at 8:00 a.m. at the Hitchin' Post in Roaring Springs for breakfast.

The members and guests retired to the Lions Club meeting room for the surprise presentation. After Mr. Thacker arrived and was escorted to the meeting room, the guest and lodge members greeted him and his family.

Wes Campbell started the meeting. Corky Marshall gave a

Mrs. Lynn Stark of Flomot, Wes Stark of Del Rio and Mindy Stark of Austin.

Visiting Saturday, Dec. 27 with Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Jones were daughter and family, Candy and Michael Kern, Holly, Steven and Benjamin of Plano. They also visited other relatives in the area including Ann and Buster Chadwick in Quitaque.

Trent and Kevin Tiffin of Weatherford visited during the holidays with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Tiffin.

Visiting during the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers and Donnie Rogers were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Degan of Kalgary, Ronnie Rogers, Richard, Tina and Jarred Rogers, Shay and Jimmy McDaniel and Seth of Lubbock and Brooke and Natalie Rogers of Lindale.

blessing and the meeting was turned over to Billy Farley and Alvin Alexander. Mr. Farley, the newly installed District Deputy for the Masonic District No. 96, made the presentation, stating the Masonic Golden Trowel award is the highest award presented to a Brother Mason. Mr. Thacker now joins an elite group of recipients.

Mr. Thacker's list of accomplishments are vast, including member of the Lions Club, City Council, and as Mayor of Roaring Springs, School Board, Motley County Hospital Board, American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Roaring Springs Ranch Club, director of First State Bank of Matador, and a member of Church of Christ of Roaring Springs.

After the ceremony, Mr. Thacker commented on life as a Mason and thanked the Lodge and his family.

Mr. Campbell then asked Mr. Marshall for a closing prayer and turned the meeting over the Mark Gumaer, Master of the Matador Masonic Lodge, for closing.

The Matador Lodge expressed their thanks to Jeff Thacker and Corky Marshall in coordinating the surprise for Mr. Thacker, and The Hitchin' Post and Lions Club for allowing them to use the facilities.

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2003 in review

from page 1

June 12
29th Annual Motley County Junior Rodeo set for July 11-12

June 19
Motley County ISD will offer computer classes

June 26
Painting the town
Downtown Matador is taking on fresh, new look with several businesses getting new signs painted.
Library will close renovation

June 26
Motley County Bucks program underway
The Motley County Buck program officially got underway at the first "after hours" open house sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

July 3
New school board members to attend training sessions

Vacation Bible School will feature SonHarvest county fair theme

July 10
Annual July 4th Celebration draws big crowd to Roaring Springs

June rains good news for Motley County farmers and ranchers

Junior Rodeo promises dust kikin' thrills at 29th annual event

Motley County will receive two grants

Motley County Judge Ed D. Smith will soon receive grant monies from the Texas Department of Health in the amount of \$10,500.00. The second grant in the amount of \$25,504.00 is from the State Homeland Security Program.

continued next week

Afton residents meet for tree lighting ceremony

by D. Stocker

The first annual Afton Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony took place Tuesday, December 16, 2003, with approximately 30 adults and children from the town and surrounding farms and ranches in attendance.

The living tree is located in the triangle on the Afton highway (FM 193) east of Patton Springs school and across the road from the traditional nativity scene in front of the Afton Baptist Church.

As darkness fell, Gary Bridge gave a welcome speech and Jayna Perryman gave a short history of the project and thanked all for coming. After a Christmas prayer, the lights were lit to resounding ooh's, aahh's and cheers of Merry

Christmas!

Carols were sung as the children decorated the tree with pinecone birdseed ornaments made by the PISD elementary students. Chaparones and children then left on a hay ride for more caroling along a local route.

The Community Christmas Tree was planted last year by a small group of Aftonians in response to the inspiration and hard work of Jayna Perryman.

Dr. Robert Baker donated the 8 ft. Pinon Pine tree and the South Plains Electric Cooperative of Dickens provided a grant for other expenses.

Gary and Jane Bridge water the tree and are providing electricity for the lights. The lights were given by Freda Dunn, Jayna's mother and the Gutierrez and Upchurch families.

Plans are in the works for adding display items to the tree area each year.

The tree will be lighted ever night through New Year's Day for the enjoyment of passers-by.



Christmas Day Accident

Motley County Sheriff received a call at approximately 9:30 a.m., December 25, 2003, reporting an accident on Texas 70 South of Roaring Springs near South Pease River Bridge. Two young men from the South Texas area were enroute to Quitaque when the driver lost control of the vehicle. Both men were injured and were transported by Motley County EMS to Lubbock UMC Hospital. Motley County Law Enforcement, EMS and Fire Department responded to the scene. Reports indicate that alcohol may have been a factor in the accident.

NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to thank the Home Healthcare, the First Baptist Church and the ladies of the Church, and to all of Dad's friends for your care, concern, food, flowers and prayers. A special thanks to Don and Pat Warren.

The Dood Damron family

Many thanks to the first responders, law officials and many other concerned citizens for your efficient help. Again in our time of need. Also, many thanks for the phone calls and well wishes for the victims of the accident. Our best wishes to each of you.

Sincerely,
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We want to tell each one of you how much we have appreciated every thoughtful and loving thing you have done for us through the illness and loss of our Bill Koon. There are so many special people, old friends, new friends, sweet home health nurses, our Church, Senior Citizens help, neighbors, family, fellow members of American Legion Fleming Post 337 - your military salute was excellent. Also thanks to the Legion Auxiliary Unit 337. So special that Motley County ISD student council honored Veterans November 11th and had just interviewed Bill Koon.

The flowers were beautiful, the food so good, your cards so consoling, memorials to the Library, Senior Citizens, Motley County Museum, Matador Cemetery, Roaring Springs Cemetery, First Methodist Church, your calls and your prayers so meaningful. Circle by.

Our love,
Billie Koon
Kenneth W. Koon and family
Karen D. Fleming and family

Thank you to the Motley County EMS for their quick response and the care to our father.

The Barton family

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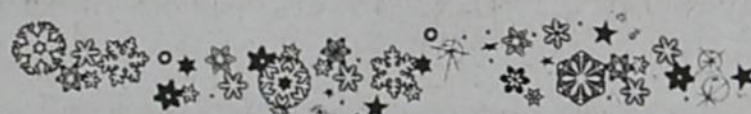
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Motley County Tribune

Carla M. Meador ~ Publisher & Editor



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3tc-3

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THE MOTLEY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY is currently accepting applications for a full time Permanent Program Technician. Eligible candidates must be U.S. Citizens, high school graduates or equivalent, and be at least 18 years of age or 17 years of age for high school graduates. Agriculture background and computer skills are helpful but not required. Duties involved include programs such as Conservation, Compliance, and Payment Eligibility. FSA is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for appointment on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, marital or family status. The deadline for applying is December 30, 2003. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained at the FSA Office located at 700 Dundee St., Matador, Texas, or by calling (806) 347-2263 ext. 2.

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Display advertising will increase to \$2.75 per column inch in Motley County and \$3.25 out of the county. Classified advertising will not increase.
Monthly 2 x 2 business review ads will increase to \$40.00 per month, and monthly 1 x 5 ads will increase to \$50.00 per month.
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By virtue of an Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 110th Judicial District Court of MOTLEY County, on the 8th day of December, 2003, by the Clerk thereof, in the case(s) styled as follows:

Cause No. 656-TS
Styling: City of Matador v. R.B. Dawson, Mrs. A/k/a Nancy Dawson.
Legal Description: 1. Lots 6, 7, Block 92, Original Town of Matador, Motley County, Texas.
Cause No. 665-TS
Styling: City of Matador v. Conrado Zarate

Legal Description: 2. Lots 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, Block 110, Original Town of Matador, Motley County, Texas. and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on the 6th day of January, 2004, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the North door of the Courthouse of Motley County, in the City of Matador, Texas.

Levied on the 8th day of December, 2003, as the property of said defendants, to satisfy the judgement rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, at 12 percent per annum, and all costs of suit in favor of each jurisdiction.

"ALL BIDDERS MUST NOW DISPLAY PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH 34.015 OF TEXAS TAX CODE."

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 8TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003
Jim Meador,
SHERIFF, MOTLEY COUNTY, TEXAS

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Nelda Hightower - Owner
Kay Heatly - Manager
W.H. (Bill) Heatly - Attorney

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