

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE



VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

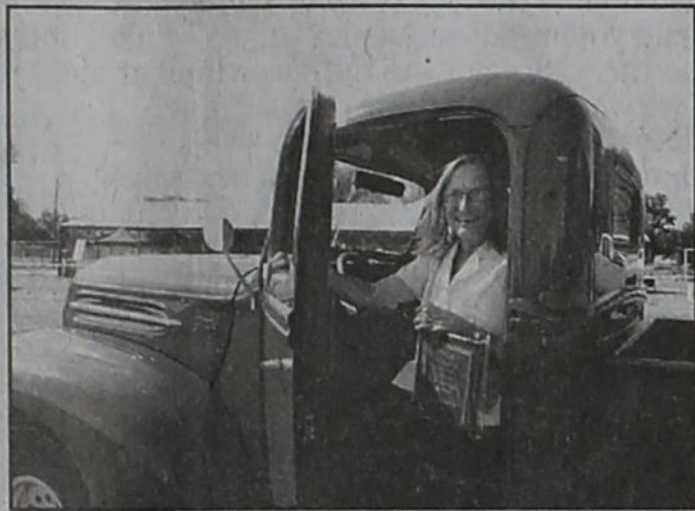
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Thursday, September 3, 2009

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 118 Issue No. 36

Old Settlers are winners



Best Antique Car, Sue Maben



Best Float, MC 4-H



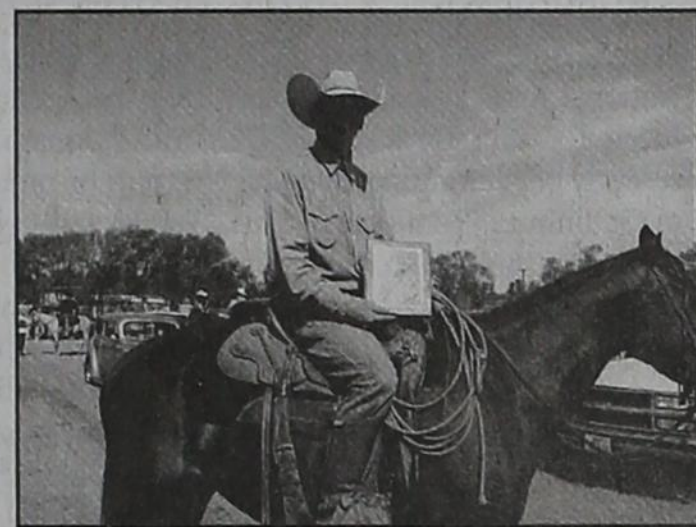
Best Horse Drawn Carriage, Jim Bo Humphreys



Best Jr. Cowboy, Brogan Rankin



Best Jr. Cowgirl, Jaci Zingerman



Best Modern Day Cowboy, Cliff Foster



Best Old Time Cowboy, Tommy Cooper



Best Bicycle, Delynne Collett



Jessica Ballard, Best Modern Day Cowgirl



Pictured is Kevin Rainwater, who made a guest appearance at the Oldtimers Dance on Thursday afternoon. Kevin Rainwater and the Blue Denim Band performed during Old Settlers on Friday night at the Pavillion.



Pictured is Mike Porter who along with local talent Kelly Keltz on base guitar, Gerald Pipkin on the keyboard, and B.R. Goodall, Girard, on guitar provided music for the Oldtimers Dance at Old Settlers on Thursday, August 27, in the Old Pavillion at the rodeo grounds.



Pictured (L to R) are Roaring Springs Mayor Corky Marshall, Buffy and Michael Crutchley who are serving beans and cornbread to residents on at the annual donation only fundraiser. Elected officials dished out the popular menu to more than 50 residents who also enjoyed other condiments and homemade cookies.

All photos by Carol Campbell

Attorney General Greg Abbott Takes Legal Action to Defend Open Meetings Act

Brief argues that open meetings law furthers, rather than frustrates the First Amendment

AUSTIN – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today took legal action to defend the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) from a legal challenge to its constitutionality. Former Alpine city council members Avinash Rangra and Anna Monclova have filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of penalties that TOMA imposes on government officials who violate open meetings laws. On September 24, Solicitor General James Ho will defend the law during an oral argument before the full 17-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

In February 2005, Rangra was indicted for violating TOMA. According to local prosecutors, Rangra sent e-mails to a quorum of the Alpine City Council. Because those e-mails discussed official government business, Rangra was charged with conducting an illegal, closed meeting. The charge were lat-

er dropped. However, Rangra and Monclova subsequently challenged TOMA in federal court, claiming the law violates the First Amendment. Their lawsuit sought an injunction preventing TOMA's enforcement. The federal district court rejected the lawsuit, but a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit later sent the case back to the trial court to review TOMA under a stricter standard of review. In response, Attorney General Abbott asked the Fifth Circuit court to accept the case for rehearing before the entire court.

In a brief that was filed today, the Attorney General argues that TOMA furthers, rather than frustrates, fundamental First Amendment values. "Elected officials work for the people. They do not have a First Amendment right against the very people they serve. They suffer no actionable First Amendment injury

from being required to conduct public business in public, rather than in secret, to the exclusion of the voters who elected them to office in the first place," the brief states. "In short, open meeting laws expand, not suppress, communication. Such laws do not limit public discourse—they broaden it. ... Open government is precisely what the First Amendment envisions, not condemns."

The Attorney General's brief also argues: "Like virtually every open meeting law across the country, . . . the Texas Open Meetings Act is based on a simple premise: Because the decisions of governmental bodies are made not on behalf of the members themselves, but on behalf of the people they serve, the people have a right to view the decision-making process."

In addition to defending TOMA's constitutionality, the brief argues that the court continued on page 3

Commissioner's Court votes to keep the effective tax rate Assistant position is abolished in public budget hearing

The Motley County Commissioners' Court held a Public Budget Hearing Monday, August 24, for the purpose of adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. A full court was in attendance, consisting of County Judge Ed D. Smith, Roy Gene Stephens (Pct. 1), Donnie Turner (Pct. 2), Franklin Jameson (Pct. 3), and Russell Alexander (Pct. 4). Also in attendance was County Attorney Tom Edwards, Sheriff Michael Crutchley, and Jen Charette, Assistant to the County Judge.

The budget will raise more property taxes than last year's budget by \$22,388.44 or 2.66 percent, and of that amount, \$5,680.71 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

The agenda included comments from citizens; proposed changes to the budget, setting salaries and expenses for elected officials, and finally

the adoption of the 2009-2010 budget. In addition, the commissioner's were asked to vote on a proposal to raise the tax rate above the effective rate, set tax rate hearings, and set a meeting to adopt the tax rate. Later, the court voted unanimously to keep the effective tax rate at .79791, eliminating the need for additional tax rate hearings or public hearings.

Citizens representing the Motley County Oversight Committee were Marie Louise Liebe-Harkort, Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton, Barbara Armstrong, and Olivia Barton. Also attending in behalf of the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail was Carol Campbell.

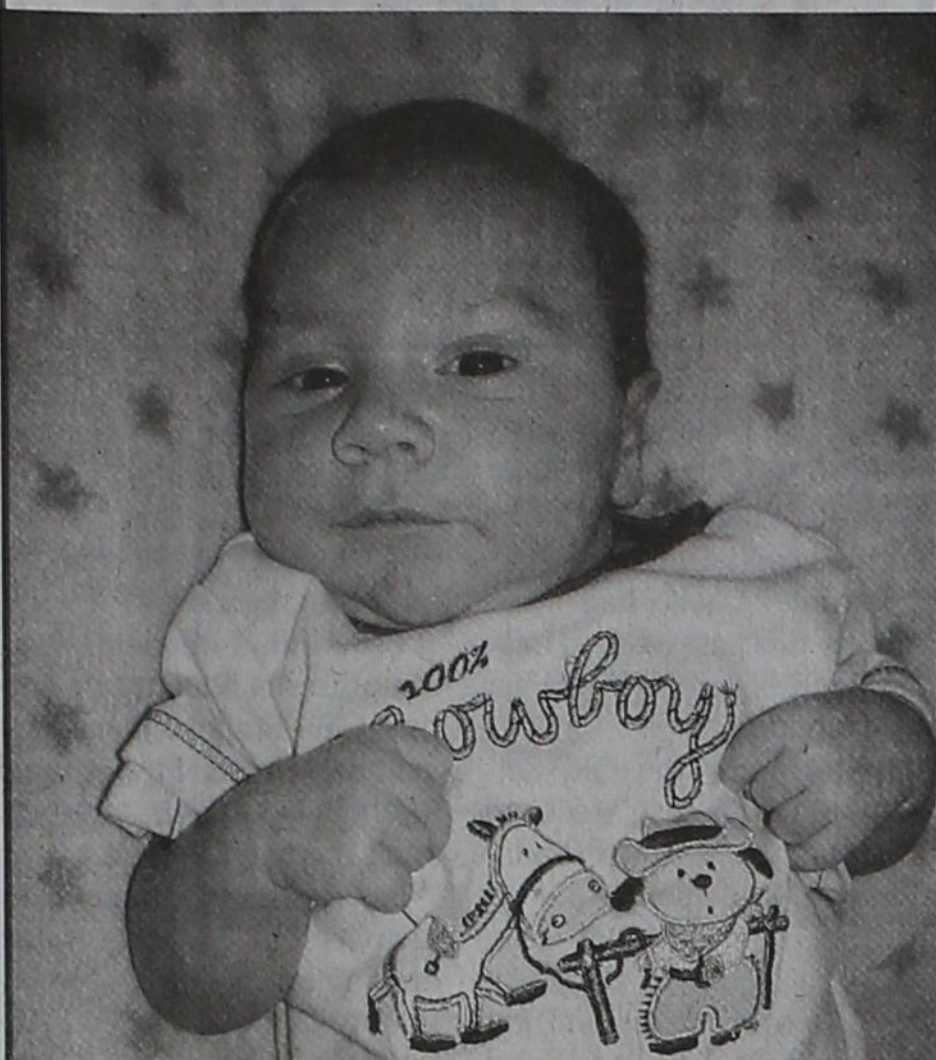
While the effective rate remained the same as FY08-09, Ms. Liebe-Harkort asked for clarification on tax increases last fiscal year based on fuel cost increases that did not materialize. As of July 31, 2009,

there was still \$13,000 left in the fuel budget line item. "We don't know what fuel prices are going to be," Commissioner Alexander explained. "We could have a hurricane and it would go to \$4.00 a gallon in a heartbeat - it is very volatile."

Ms. Liebe-Harkort also asked the court to comment on increased land values, resulting in an increased tax base. Judge Smith explained that while the 5-year average is based on productivity values, when the sixth year is added to the formula and the oldest year dropped, "it would show an increase in value for a time," he said.

Carol Campbell addressed the court to request that the commissioner's court reinstate the proposed \$1800 budget to the jail project. The budget was reduced from \$3,000 in 2008-2009 to a continued on page 6

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Cale Crockett Drum

Cade and Case Drum are proud to announce the arrival of their baby brother, Cale Crockett Drum. Cale was born on July 20, 2009 at 6:05 am. He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 inches long. Parents are Lewis and Lauren Drum of Roaring Springs. Grandparents are Dale and Karen Petersen of Pipe Creek, TX and Ruth Drum and the late Lewis Drum of Valle de Oro, TX. Great-Grandparents are Eddie and Gloria Anderson of San Antonio, TX and Earl and Beryl Swanson of Lincolnshire, IL and the late Edward Petersen.

NHS Collecting Pop Tabs

The National Honor Society will once again collect pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House uses these pop tabs to help pay their electric bill.

Last year MCISD collected 51, 283 pop tabs, with the help of the community. We are asking for your help again this year. The box for donations is in the hall beside Mr. Cochran's office. If you are unable to go to the school, please call Kyla Simpson or Kathy Gillespie. They will be glad to pick up the pop tabs from you.

Thank you for your assistance with the NHS service project.

Letters Needed

Letters from community members in support of the designation of the Motley County Clinic as a federal Rural Health Clinic and in support of the clinic's reopening are being collected at Dianne Washington's CPA office and at Hotel Matador. Letters telling the needs of individual citizens are needed, rather than form letters.

Matador Ranch commits \$2,500 for historical documentary

Matador Ranch today became the first contributor to a new effort to document Motley County history launched by the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail.

"Matador is proud of our heritage and this community and county," said Bob Kilmer, ranch manager. "We believe these documentaries will aid in educating visitors who want to know more about our area's colorful history. We are delighted to commit to this first contribution."

"With this \$2,500 commitment, we believe we can expand our efforts in raising the additional funds," said Ed D. Smith, Motley County judge. "We are lucky that a Matador native, Bob Brandon, has agreed to help us put these historical documentaries together. With his fictionally-recognized work, we expect the final product to be first-class and welcomed by

our community and our visitors. We appreciate Matador Ranch's generosity and kick-start to our fundraising campaign."

Brandon, who owns and operates Brandon Productions in Denver, has agreed to film the area's history, interviewing a number of people and utilizing some of the many fine photographs available that tell the area's history. Carol Campbell, Chairman of the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail, is heading up the fundraising drive.

The video will be used for those visiting the refurbished Historic Motley County Jail, for which Matador Ranch donated ranch-quarried stone for some of the exterior repairs. In addition, the videos are expected to be used for promotions of regional tourism opportunities and within the local schools.

The Friends of the Historic

Motley County Jail is a non-profit consortium of interested residents and former residents who promote and support the repair and renovation of the historic 1891 Motley County Jail.

Matador Ranch is owned and operated by Koch Agriculture Company, which is an indirect subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc. Fred C. Koch co-founded what has become Koch Industries; in 1953, a company owned by Koch acquired Matador Ranch, which was once part of an 800,000-acre ranch originally formed by Scottish investors in 1882. Today's operation covers 130,000 acres in five Texas counties: Motley, Dickens, Cottle, Floyd and Crosby. In addition to the hunting and deer breeding operations, the ranch runs commercial cattle and breeds Quarter horses.

RETRO NEWS

Matador Tribune 1937

Doctors of 4 Counties Here Today

Physicians meeting for First time in Motley County

In the neighborhood of 20 prominent West Texas doctors are expected here today as members of the Hardeman Foard, Cottle, and Motley counties Medical Societies when the organization holds its annual convention held in this county during the 20 years since the society was originated according to Dr. A.C. Traweek declared. After the visiting physicians have been the guests at a special "Henry Pipkin" barbaque in the city park.

Prominent Doctors

A number of prominent west Texas Physicians will deliver papers during the program. Dr. Traweek said, including Dr. Sam Dunn of Lubbock, who will attend the meeting. Dr. Mildred Hannah of Quanaah is secretary of the organization. The Hardeman Foard and Motley counties Medical Society is affiliated with the Panhandle Medical Association as well as the state organization. Matador is honored in being selected as the convention city by the doctors and extends a cordial welcome.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Josh and Amanda Piercy are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Layla Jane. Layla was born at Covenant Womens Lakeside August 16, 2009 at 12:58 a.m. She weighed 8lbs. 9 ozs and was 20 in. long. Proud Grandparents are Tommy and Kate Hurt Matador and Ken, Rhonda Williams of Sudan. Great Grandparents are Thomas and Dora Hurt of Matador and John and C.A. Williams of Sudan.

Thank You

The City of Matador would like to thank the Texas Department of Transportation for their assistance seal coating Bundy Street. Without their assistance projects like this could not be accomplished. Thanks again from the City and the citizens of Matador.

"SIMPLY CHRISTIAN"



There are certainly some private aspects to the Christian's life. Prayer, meditation, reading the Scriptures, memorizing special passages from the Bible, all of these, without controversy, are important activities in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

But, what does it mean to be called a "Christian?" In Acts 11:26 we read about those early disciples being called Christians first at Antioch. In Acts 26:28 King Agrippa speaks to Paul about almost converting him to Christ. 1 Peter 4:16 Peter exhorts those who are "strangers" in this world to not be ashamed if they suffer persecution because of wearing the name "Christian."

There is much more to the Christian Faith than just silent devotion to the Lord. Those early people who were called "Christians" were alive and vibrant with their faith. They were not ashamed of who they were or what they were. Rather, they were engaged in the activity of declaring the Kingdom of God to those around them. From those around them came the name, "Christian." Why? It is obvious. The early disciples were identified by their conduct. They were seen as men and women who resembled Jesus in their actions. Should not our conduct in speech and activities resemble Jesus?

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

Old Settlers Memorial Service



Awards were presented at the Memorial Service held Thursday, August 27. Pictured, left to right, Helen Arrington-Dickens County's Oldest Woman (in attendance); Albert Ozborn-Traveled Farthest-245 miles; Margie Payne-Motley County's Oldest Woman (in attendance); Buzz Thacker-Residing Longest in Motley County; Billy Hand-Motley County's Oldest Man (in attendance.)



Automatic Car Wash TOUCH FREE

\$5

\$7

\$9



1 Block North of Dairy Queen
Floydada, TX

Owner Eric Cornelius ~ Cornelius Conoco

Attorney General Greg Abbott Takes Legal Action to Defend Open Meetings Act

continued
from page one

should dismiss the case because it is moot. The brief argues that Rangra and Monclova lack standing in the case because they are no longer city council members and, as a result, are no longer subject to the act's penalties.

To learn more about the Office of the Attorney General's efforts to ensure openness in government, visit the agency's Web site at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

