

# Motley County Tribune

"VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS"

ESTABLISHED 1891

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50¢



**2001 LIONS QUEEN** — Brittany Donaldson, center, was crowned the 2001 Lions Club Queen during the Annual Variety Show held at the school gym Monday night. Pictured with Brittany are Cassie Campbell, (left to right) First Runner-up, Chasity Holman, Courtney Hays, and last year's Queen, Kayla Copp. Brittany is a Sophomore at Motley County High School and the daughter of Billy and Terree Donaldson of Matador.

## WTU files request to recover uncollected fuel costs

Austin -- American Electric Power's (AEP) West Texas Utilities (WTU) subsidiary has filed a request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) for permission to recover in customer bills approximately \$59.5 million in uncollected costs for fuel used to generate electricity. The filing is the result of the continuing increase in natural gas costs throughout the entire country. These costs have exceeded significantly the amount charged to customers.

If approved as requested, the surcharge would begin with the May billing cycle and continue through December. Residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity will see an increase of \$17.40 a month during this seven-month period.

WTU customers this month began seeing the impact of an interim increase in the fuel factors used to determine the fuel charge portion of the bill to more accurately reflect the market price of natural gas. However, this interim increase in fuel factors,

which still must receive final approval from the PUCT, did not address the approximately \$59.5 million in uncollected fuel costs for the period from July, 2000 to January 2001.

Natural gas prices from July 2000 through January 2001 were up to four times higher than prices during the same period of the prior year. Despite the fact that 43 percent of WTU's generation is fueled by low-cost coal, the sheer magnitude of the continued increases in the price of natural gas that began last summer prompted WTU to request the fuel factor increase in January and now the surcharge.

Fuel costs are an expense of generating electricity, which WTU must pay to fuel supplies. WTU does not make any profit on fuel costs as the PUCT requires that these costs be passed through to customers at the price paid by WTU.

Investor-owned electric utilities in Texas, like WTU, are required by the PUCT to use fuel factors based on cost estimates to collect the pro-

jected cost of fuel used to generate electricity at their power plants. When the actual cost of fuel is significantly more than the amount customers paid in their monthly bills, the PUCT rules require that the utility file a request for permission to recover these amounts through a surcharge.

American Electric Power is a multinational energy company based in Columbus, Ohio. AEP owns and operates more than 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity, making it one of America's largest generators

of electricity. The company is also a leading wholesale energy marketer and trader, ranking second in the U.S. in electricity volume.

AEP provides retail electricity to more than 9 million customers worldwide with major assets, in the U.S. and holdings in select international markets. Wholly owned subsidiaries are involved in power engineering and construction services, energy management and telecommunications. Information about AEP and its subsidiaries is available on the World Wide Web at [www.AEP.com](http://www.AEP.com)

## 61st Annual Motley County Stock Show to be held Saturday

The 61st Annual Motley County Junior Livestock Show will kick off Saturday, March 10 at the Motley County Livestock Show Barn with a breakfast, beginning at 6:30 a.m., sponsored by Pay-N-Save Grocery.

All animals must be weighed and in place by 8:30 a.m. The PeeWee Showmanship starts at 9:45 a.m., followed by the Swine Show at 10:00 a.m. The Lamb Show begins at 11:30 a.m., preceded by the Rabbits at 12:30 p.m. and Heifers at 1:00 p.m. The Steer Show begins at 2:00 p.m., followed by the premium auction at 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the Show and Youth Premium Auction to help support the youth of Motley County. At this year's auction, items donated by businesses and supporters of the Motley County Jr. Livestock Show will also be auctioned. Directors for this year's Show are Craig Turner, Bruce Lefevre, Tommy Gleghorn, J.D. Russell, Mark Seigler, and David Stafford

Donations of \$1.00 are being accepted for a drawing of a \$500 gift certificate from Thacker Jewelry in Roaring Springs. The proceeds from the fund raiser will benefit the Premium Auction. Anyone interested in the gift certificate may contact a 4-H or FFA member and/or a director of the Stock Show Association.

### Commissioners meet in special session

## Attorney hired to represent County

Motley County Commissioners Court met in a called special session, Monday, March 5. All Commissioner were present, in addition to County Judge Laverna Price.

The Court discussed county road classifications and specifications for cattle guards. Judge Price read to the court Transportation Code 251.007 (a), "The Commissioners Court of each county shall classify each public road in the county as a first-class, second-class, or third-class road." Transportation Code 251.009 (b), "The Commissioners Court shall establish plans and specifications for a standard cattle guard to be used on the County roads." The plans and specifications must be plainly written and supplemented by drawings as necessary and must be available for inspection by the residents of the county. Motion by Commissioner Turner and second by Commissioner Jameson, as there will be no classifications of county roads and no specifications for cattle guards. Commissioners Turner, Jameson and Davis voted in favor and Commissioner Fletcher voted against. The motion carried.

Motley County has received a citation from West Texas Rural Counties Association Medical Benefits Pool. The WTRCA medical pool is defunct. Motion was made that Judge Price send a letter of denial. Motion carried.

The court has been searching for grant monies for plans for restoration for the courthouse. The court was unanimous in applying for \$5,000.00 matching fund grant for the purpose of drafting a plan for future use of the restoration program. The grant is called 2001 Smart Start II, Texas Courthouse Preservation Services Fund made possible by The Meadows Foundation, Dallas.

The Court elected to purchase a Chevrolet dump truck for \$12,100.00. Each precinct will pay \$3,025.00. Two dump trucks owned by the county will be traded in.

Commissioners met in an emergency session, Tuesday, March 6, to appoint an attorney to represent Motley County in the lawsuit filed by West Texas Rural Counties Association Medical Benefits pool. The Court elected to employ Mr. Zant Woodul of the firm of Crenshaw, Dupree, and Milam in Lubbock.

## Motley County approved for Livestock Assistance Program

AUSTIN - Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs reminds livestock producers that 239 Texas Counties have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP).

Motley County is one of these approved Texas counties.

LAP, administered by FSA, provides direct payments to eligible livestock producers in approved counties who suffered grazing losses due to natural disasters during 2000. Nationwide, \$430 million have been allocated for livestock producers for weather-related losses as part of the farm assistance package passed last October.

For drought-related losses, LAP benefits are available in approved counties where precipitation was 40 percent or more below normal for at least four months and where there was at least a 40 percent loss of avail-

able grazing during a 90-day period due to drought during the 2000 crop-year.

Eligible producers must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing for three or more consecutive months during 2000 due to a natural disaster. Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine and equine animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm or ranch.

Other area counties approved for program include Briscoe, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, and Hall counties.

For more information on LAP, visit the USDA Farm Service Agency website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/lap01.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/lap01.htm) or contact the local USDA Service Center.

## Motley County experiences variety of weather in February

by Earlyne Jameson

As they say, "South Plains weather changes in a minute." This was proven in the month of February. Snow, ice storm, sleet, hail, rain, a sandstorm with 55 mile winds and temperatures dipping to low 20's and then reaching 80 degrees was intermittent throughout the month in Motley County. The first day of

March came in like a lamb with a 65 degree temperature.

The Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers registered the total precipitation for the month of February: Betty Simpson, Northfield, 1.27; Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs, 1.26; Tommie Cruse, Flo-mot, 1.03; Kelly Meyer, Matador, 0.84; and Jim Stockton, Whiteflat, 0.70.



**NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK?** No, not quite. This group of unusual characters were part of the Matador Lions Club Show, which was held Monday night at the high school gym. The two in front are Gerald Pipkin and Alan Bingham, in back is Bucky Marvel. The very entertaining and funny show depicted some rather famous singing stars who just didn't quite look up to par for the show, but did a wonderful job of entertaining the crowd.





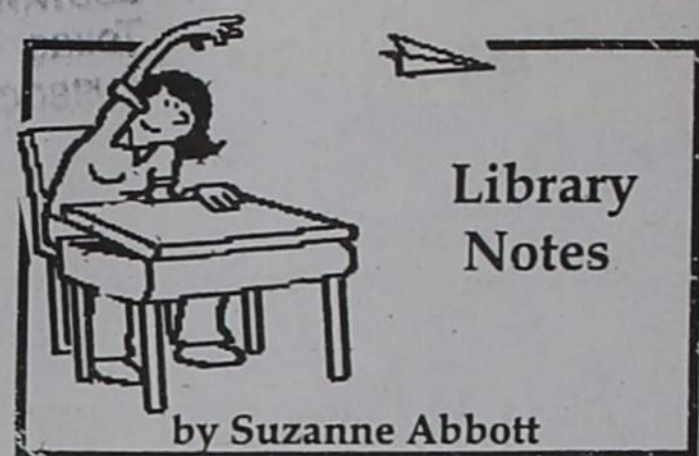
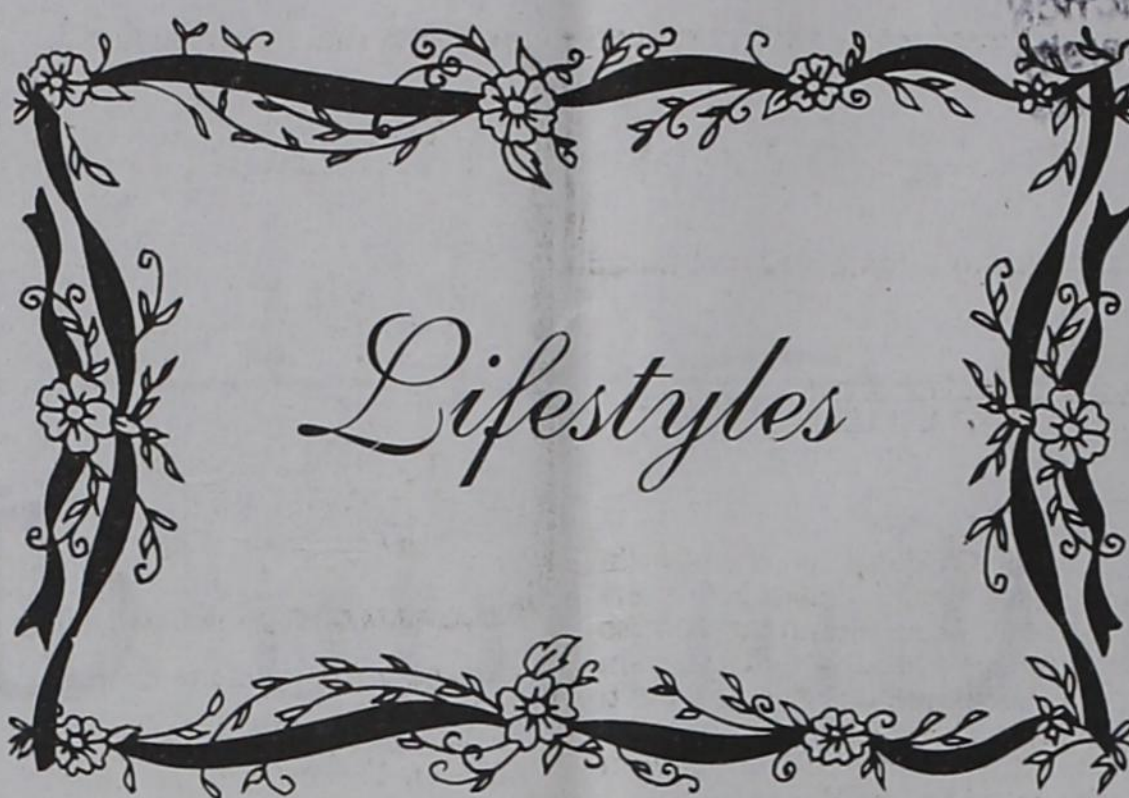
As I have said before, I am a collector. I love old stuff - junk! A Saturday morning with lots of Garage Sales is my perfect day. To me that's real fun! And as you all know, Jim doesn't agree. While attempting to clean the garage Sunday afternoon, he decided it was impossible with all my junk! I really do have too much and need to have a giant clean-out sale, which I hope to accomplish sometime this summer.

But with all my junk, there are certain items I have collected which I consider 'heirlooms.' Items I intend to pass on to my son and my grandchildren. Some of these items they may wonder someday why in the world I would have wanted it, or why in the world I would have thought they would have wanted it. But to me they are items with some remembrance with them. A special feeling or memory that is brought to mind when I look at the particular item. Such as the McCoy Tulip Vase that belonged to my Granny. I gave this particular item to my Granny when I was a little girl, after a trip to the junk yard with my Daddy to haul off some trash. Yes, even as a little girl I loved to rummage through junk. The vase had been broken and glued together, it was dirty and dingy, but when I

spotted it in a pile of junk, I thought it was beautiful and would make a perfect gift for my wonderful Granny. Of course, she loved it and displayed it on a shelf where it stayed until her death. I proudly display that vase now and everytime I look at it I think of Granny's love for me. She couldn't have been more proud of a gift, and the way she went on about it you would have thought it was a priceless treasure. That 'heirloom,' in a material object, gives a piece of my Granny's heritage to me everytime I look at it.

While thinking about my collections, my junk, my 'heirlooms', I began to think, have I collected within myself the kind of 'heirlooms' that really mean something. Do I have a heritage that my loved ones would treasure. God's word tells us that "Children are an heritage of the Lord." Psalms 127:3. What a wonderful gift God has given us in our children - His heritage to us.

With all the stuff we collect, I think we should all hope and pray that we would collect within ourselves the kind of 'heirlooms' that are filled with God's joy and peace, so that we will have an heritage of His great love.



We appreciate the donations to the Library by Jo Scott in memory of Algie Groves and Winifred Lee. We also appreciate the donation in memory of Winifred Lee that Georgia Witcher sent. We thank Bill and Lea Peacock for their donations in memory of Glenn Sanders. These donations keep our collection up to date and help keep the Library open. Each memorial is special.

We thank Lee Cook for helping at the Library Monday. We appreciate all our volunteers very much.

We have two new books for children. Both are delightful stories and have beautiful illustrations. We have *Down in the Woods at Sleepy Time* by Carole Lexa Schaefer and the other new book for children is the

famous *Pumpkin Soup* by Helen Cooper.

For adults or young fans of Country Western Music, we have *The Stars that Shine* by Julie Clay. This book consists of stories told by all your favorite singers, such as Vince Gill, George Jones, Patty Loveless, Loretta Lynn, and Trisha Yearwood. Many more stars tell stories in this book.

We thank Opal Johnson's sister, Georgia LaFever, of El Paso for giving us two dolls for the children's section of the Library. We have bright new *Raggedy Ann* and *Raggedy Andy* to go with the video tape and the book about these two favorite childhood characters.

**Family & Consumer news**  
by Mozelle Montano, Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences

**LIKE BUTTER...ONLY BETTER**

Save yourself a trip to the store next time you are baking and run out of eggs, milk or butter, says Mozelle Montano, Extension Agent. Other ingredients can serve the same function in cookies, cakes, pies and casseroles - and often more healthy.

In baked goods - such as cookies, muffins, and quick breads - replace each egg with

Half a small, ripe, mashed banana;

1/4 cup tofu, blended with the liquid ingredients of the recipe;

1/4 cup of unsweetened applesauce, pureed prunes or canned pumpkin;

2 tablespoons of cornstarch beaten with 2 tablespoons of water.

In casseroles, meat loaves, burger patties and main dishes, replace each egg with three tablespoons of:

Tomato paste  
Quick-cooking rolled oats or

cooked oatmeal

Finely crushed bread crumbs  
Mashed potatoes or dry instant potato flakes.

Dairy Replacers, Cholesterol-free, low-fat alternatives:

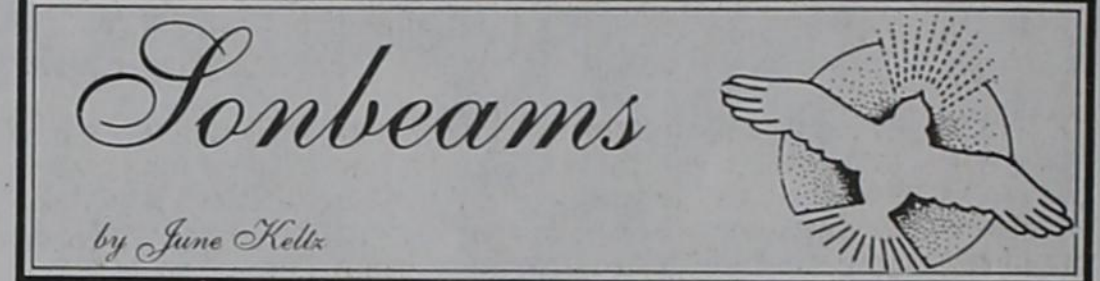
Soy milk or rice milk. Use cup for cup in place of cow's milk in pudding, custard, on cereal, in smoothies and for baking.

Soy Cheese. Good tasting and melts best if mixed throughout a hot dish, such as a casserole. Sold in natural food stores.

Soy yogurt, sour cream and cream cheese. Use as you would the dairy versions for baking and in sauces and dips.

Substitute canola or safflower oil in baked goods. You can usually reduce the amount by as much as one-third without affecting taste. Use olive oil for other cooking needs.

Be creative and adventuresome. See what substitutions you can think of that will change your day.



Mrs. Marcos of the Philippines, now has a museum honoring her thousands of shoes purchased during the Presidential regime of her late husband. When Niki first marketed their shoes the prices were prohibitive for the poor and middle class. In some areas teens were actually killing others in order to possess a pair of this prestigious footwear. Most of us can describe in detail our favorite shoes or boots of the past.

Each time a pain shoots through the bunions on my feet, I remember with both delight and sorrow, my shiny beige imitation alligator shoes with a one inch heel. The pain was due to the fact that they were at least one size too short and a half size too narrow. Returning them was out of the question since they were a bribe for staying with relatives while my parents traveled to Mineral Wells. I suffered in silence and wore them on Sunday only. Being the envy of all my young girl friends somehow made them more doable.

We look at others who have achieved fame in the secular world, as well as religious circles, and they become the epitome of who we desire to be. We marvel at the beauty,

popularity, power and success but we fail to see the hidden aspects of sacrifice, hard labor and, yes, pain. Had we walked all the way in their shoes would we be as anxious to share their popular acclaim? I think not.

The Mother of James and John, being oblivious of the consequences of her request, asked permission for her two sons to be seated, one on the left and one on the right of Jesus. In His infinite wisdom, Jesus turning to her sons asked them a pertinent question, "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" Paraphrased, "Will you be able to walk in my shoes, suffer the pain of rejection and die a dreadful death?"

Before we reach for notoriety it would be wise to count the cost, knowing that all shoes will, at some time, rub a blister, corn or bunion, (parodies of life's trials and testings). These are intended by Satan to be stumbling blocks to turn us back or to admit failure. Those whom we most admire have endured numerous afflictions but turned them into spiritual weapons to defeat the enemy and to grow spiritually. To gather overwhelming evidence of this principle is to gaze upon the nail scarred feet of the Son of God.

**Blair Thacker appears in Garza Theater production**

Blair Thacker recently appeared in the Garza Theatre production of "Harvey." The comedy, written by Mary Chase and directed by Jake Morgan, was presented recently in Post at the Garza Theater.

Blair is a sophomore at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, is a 1999 graduate of Motley County High School and the daughter of Jeff and Pam Thacker of Roaring Springs.

**Methodist Bishop visits Matador Church**

Matador Methodists were privileged to have the Bishop of the Northwest and New Mexico Conferences visit their church for lunch on Saturday, March 3.

Bishop D. Max Whitfield, who resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has vowed to visit every church in the two conferences and is sticking to his word. Saturday, he and District Superintendent Henry Salley, began the day at Tulia, visited Kress, Silverton, Quitaque, Turkey and Matador, all before noon when they were fed at the Matador church. Mrs. Salley traveled with them.

After a delicious brisket meal, the Bishop was introduced by Rev. Salley. Bishop Whitfield spoke briefly of the business of the church and making it a business of disciple making. "We need to reach out to the community, meet people," stated Bishop Whitfield.

After statements and comments from the group, the three visitors departed for areas east of Matador. The Northwest Conference serves Methodists from the New Mexico border to the Oklahoma border.

**First Baptist Church to begin Women's Bible Study**

All Motley County women are invited to begin a Beth Moore Bible Study, hosted by the Matador First Baptist Church. The study, "A Woman's Heart - God's Dwelling Place," will begin Tuesday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. The study will last 10 weeks and the cost will be \$13.00 for the workbook.

Anyone interested may contact Lana Copp at 347-2425 as soon as possible for workbooks to be ordered, or more information.

It's not so much what you say  
As the manner in which you say it;  
It's not so much the language you use  
As the tone in which you convey it...

— Anonymous

**New Shipment of Matador & Roaring Springs Tee-Shirts!**



One large group of Tee-Shirts and Tank Tops  
**1/2 Price**  
Sale Prices up to **ONLY \$4.50!**

**Matador Variety**

**Jay Tomison named to Dean's List**

Jay Tomison, a Freshman student at Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, majoring in Computer Network Technology, was named to the Dean's List for the 2000 Fall Semester, with a grade point average of 3.33.

Jay is a 2000 graduate of Motley County High School and the son of Arnold and Nelda Tomison of Matador.

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.  
—Henry Adams

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BOOKS, BIBLES, OFFICE SUPPLIES & MORE AVAILABLE AT THE MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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Items to decorate your garden  
Planting Pots  
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**EVERYTHING FOR LAWN & GARDEN**  
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**Graham Supply**  
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**"Feeling Overwhelmed?"**  
Does your life seem out of control? Are you too tired, too busy, too inadequate to deal with life's terrible struggles and difficulties. There are many times in our lives when we simply feel overwhelmed by all that we must struggle against, too often we feel defeated. "And they launched out. But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended upon the lake, and they begin to be swamped and to be in danger." (Luke 8:22).  
The worst part of being in danger is that quite often we find ourselves in the most dangerous situations while alone. Certainly the sense of loneliness leads us to a feeling of hopelessness. We seem to desperately search for someone or something to rescue us. We may even cry out to God asking where are you God, are you even listening to me? "And they came to Him and woke Him up, saying, 'Master, Mater, we are perishing!'"  
In times like these we might forget for a moment who our Lord is. We might not always keep in mind that our Saviour is indeed the Master of all that is and will be. When we feel overcome, when we feel like we just can not go on let us look to the Master for His strength and comfort. "And being awakened, He rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm."  
After having rescued His disciples, Jesus gently asks, "Where is your faith?" Where is ours? Did not Jesus promise to care for us in this life and in the life to come? Is anything impossible for our Lord?  
**Roaring Springs Church of Christ**  
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.  
Radio Programs K-96FM  
Bible Study - 10 a.m. Worship - 9 a.m.



# Motley County School News

## Brenda Gillespie qualifies for State



TO STATE — Brenda Gillespie, center, qualified to compete at the Girls' State Powerlifting Meet, to be held at Killeen, March 16. Brenda placed first in 1A division at the Regional Girls' meet held March 2 at Colorado City. Accompanying Brenda to the Regional Meet and assisting her during competition, were teammates Brittany Donaldson, left, and Rebecca Morris.

Brenda Gillespie competed in the Regional Meet in Colorado City, Friday, March 2, and did an excellent job. In the 105 pound weight class she was fourth in the region and the 1A lifter. This qualifies her to attend the State Powerlifting Meet in Killeen on Friday, March 16.

Brenda lifted more than she has lifted before. She had a squat of 205, a bench of 85, and a deadlift of 210 for a total of 500 pounds. The competition for second, third, fourth, and fifth was very tough. These girls were within five pounds of each other throughout the meet. Additionally, the competition for the top 1A lifter was fierce and was not determined until the final deadlifts by each of the girls.

Coach Bowles had a basketball commitment in Austin and could not attend the Regional Meet. Coach Ridgley, James Gillespie, Rebecca Morris, and Brittany Donaldson assisted Brenda at the meet. Coach Ridgley and Mr. Gillespie attended the coaches' meetings. Mr. Gillespie called Brenda up on her squats. Rebecca and Brittany wrapped her knees and helped her with her benching shirt. Rebecca did a wonderful job keeping up with the totals of the other lifters and helping Brenda choose how much to bump up each time. All four of them helped Brenda remain calm and focused.

Attending the meet to cheer for Brenda were Billy and Pam Morris and Kathy Gillespie.

Brenda did an excellent job at the Regional Meet and should be commended for her hard work.

## What's Up?



- March 22: West Zone One Act Play at Jayton
- FFA Judging at Tarleton.
- March 23: Jr. High and High School Cheerleader tryouts.
- March 24: Fireman's Luncheon at Motley County Cafeteria.
- March 25: Paducah Little Dribblers, Tuesday - Saturday.
- March 26: Boys' Golf at Motley County.
- March 27: District One Act Play at Guthrie.
- Girls' Golf at Motley County.
- FFA Judging at Abilene.
- March 28: Uniform fitting for Jr. High and High School Cheerleaders.
- March 29: High School UIL at Jayton.
- March 30: Teacher Inservice.
- FFA Judging at Canyon.
- March 31: High School at Jayton.
- FFA Judging at Clarendon.

## Class of 2001 Senior Spotlight



LeAnnra Dawn Wallace

Nickname: LeeLee, LeAnn  
 Age: 18  
 Date of Birth: January 1, 1983  
 Parents: Billy Wallace of Dickens and Barbara Durham of Matador.  
 Siblings: Kelsi, 16 and Brett, 15.  
 Who do you most admire and why: My Mom, because she is caring, support-

ive, and has raised three children on her own.  
 Most embarrassing moment: When I high-centered my huge car on the guide wire.  
 What material thing do you most treasure: My jewelry.  
 Extracurricular activities: President of FCCLA, 4-H, UIL, One-Act Play, Student Council.  
 Special honors: Mother-Daughter of the Year; 4-H Gold Star Award; 4-H I Dare You Award; Citizenship Award.  
 Words of wisdom from the underclassmen: Start studying hard early, it will pay off in the long run.  
 Plans after graduation: Attend WTC.

### Favorites:

- Food: Chicken Fried Steak
- Soft Drink: Dr. Pepper
- Hangout: Mi Casa
- Book: The Green Mile
- Movie: Fried Green Tomatoes
- Song: I Cross My Heart
- Musical group: George Strait
- Teacher (K-12): Mrs. Pipkin
- Color: Silver & Blue
- Sport: Track
- Past time: Hanging out with Brandon and friends.
- Quote: "Opportunities multiply as they are seized."

## WAY TO GO, BRENDA!

Need a gift that will keep on giving all year long?  
 How about a subscription to the  
**MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE?**

It's like a letter from home every week!

Motley County - \$21.00 Elsewhere - \$22.00  
 \$1.00 discount for those over 60

## Motley County Spring Break March 12-16

Spring Break for Motley County students will begin at 1:30 p.m., Friday, March 9. Buses will run and parents of town students will need to pick up their children at this time. Classes will resume at the regular time on Monday, March 19.



COMPETING FOR NATIONAL - Pictured left to right are Shane's Russell, Alexis Osborn, and Danielle Gwinn who recently competed in Snyder at the Scurry County Coliseum with 455 other 8 and under and 9-10 year olds all trying to qualify for National Competition. Shane's received 9th on floor 10th on tramp, and 6th on double mini. Alexis received 4th on tramp and ninth on floor. Danielle received 3rd on tramp, sixth on floor, and 5th on double mini. Each girl competed in their age group at their skill level. These three girls will compete again on March 31 in Odessa and April 24 in Snyder. They are trying to qualify for the National Competition that will be held in San Antonio in June. Other local children who take tumbling lessons at Acrospirit gym in Spur are Annie Hurt, Sarah Ferguson, Kyla Simpson, Taelor Norrell, Tanner Norrell, Dylan Adams, Stormy Darnell and Jared Stephens.

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## Good Luck

Stock Show Participants!



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Quitauque

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 2 In Stock  
 Both-one owner units

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1998 Olds 98  
 Regency  
 4 Door, Leather, 53,344  
 Miles!! Extra Clean

2000 Malibus  
 Low Miles,  
 2 to choose from

1998 Buick  
 Lesabre  
 Loaded with Options,  
 Locally Owned!!!!

1999 Malibu  
 Nice Program Car,  
 31,233 Miles!!!

1994 GMC Ext Cab  
 (Club Cab)  
 The cleanest that  
 ever was!!!

1985 Bronco II  
 4X4,  
 Automatic

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806-492-3663

HOURS: 8:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

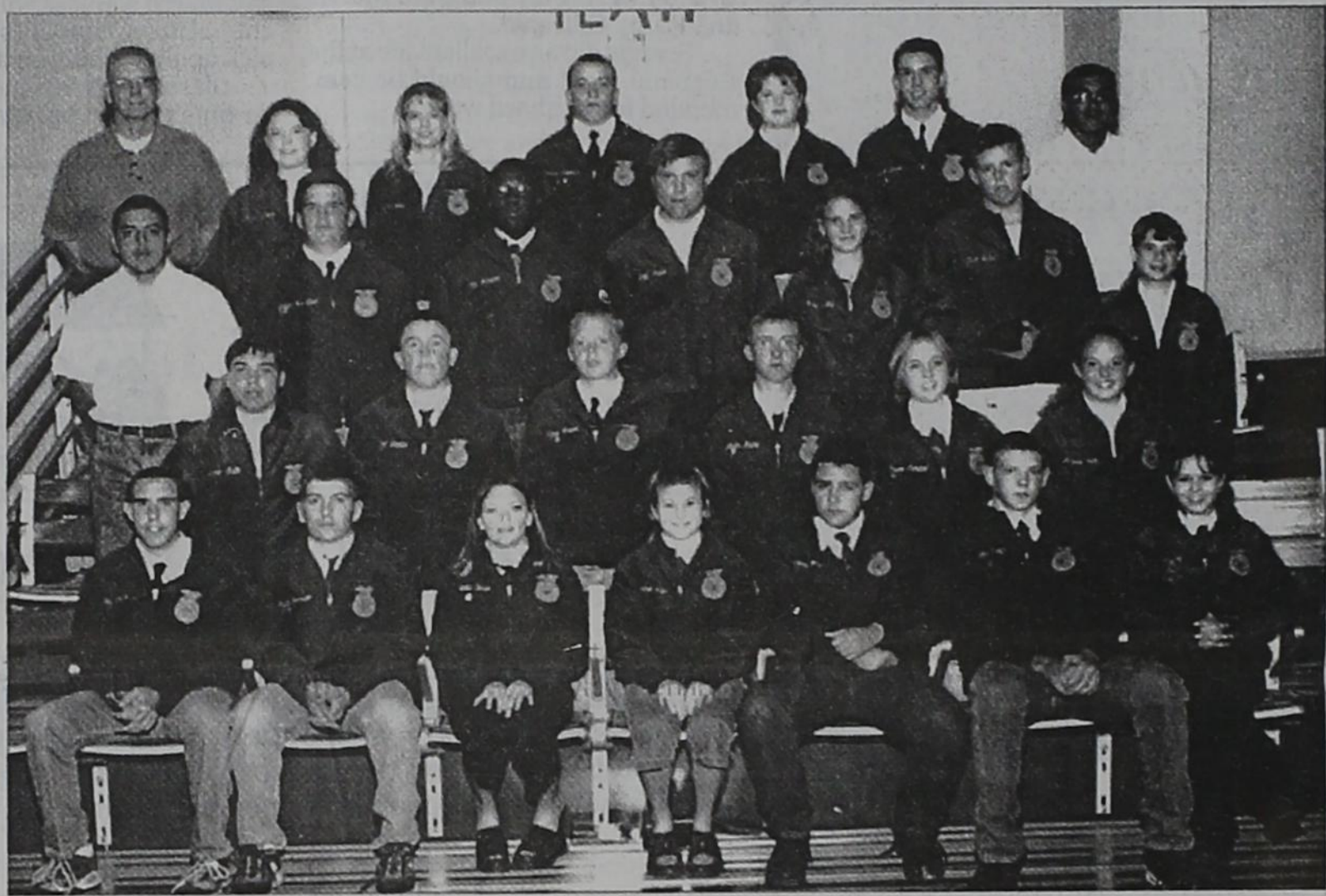
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY



# 61ST ANNUAL MOTLEY COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW



MOTLEY COUNTY 4-H — Pictured left to right (back) Mandi Ream, Stachia Baxter, Kelsi Wallace, Brandon Moore, Shandra Jones, Brett Wallace, LeeAnndra Wallace, Colton Russell, Courtney Hays, Scott Jones, Charli Ream, Justin Jameson, Dumont Darsey, and County Extension Agent Lonnie Jensechke; (front) Cameron Jeffcoat, Casey Fletcher, Cade Luckett, Mylissa Gilmore, Gavin Luckett, Savannah Rose, Shane'a Russell, and Rachael Bartlett.



MOTLEY COUNTY FFA — Pictured left to right (back) Advisor Jim Cooper, Stachia Baxter, Shandra Jones, Casey Lawrence, Rachelle Renfro, Scott Jones, Fernando Martinez; (next row) Alex Salazar, Will Ho-Gland, Tim Mangram, Britt Pierce, Amanda Ashby, Brett Wallace, Dumont Darsey; (next row) Brandon Martin, Brad Baxter, Shawn Marvel, Brandon Moore, Cassie Campbell, Amanda Hurt; (front) Ben Ridgley, President; Justin Jameson, Vice-President; Brooke Decker, Secretary; Brenda Gillespie, Treasurer; Chantry Meyer, Reporter; Clint Cooper, Sentinel; and Kayla Copp, District officer.



Good luck at the Stock Show!

*New To You*

Good Luck at the 61st Annual Motley County Jr. Livestock Show



*Calico Treasures Decorator's Studio*

Hwy. 70 - Matador



4-H

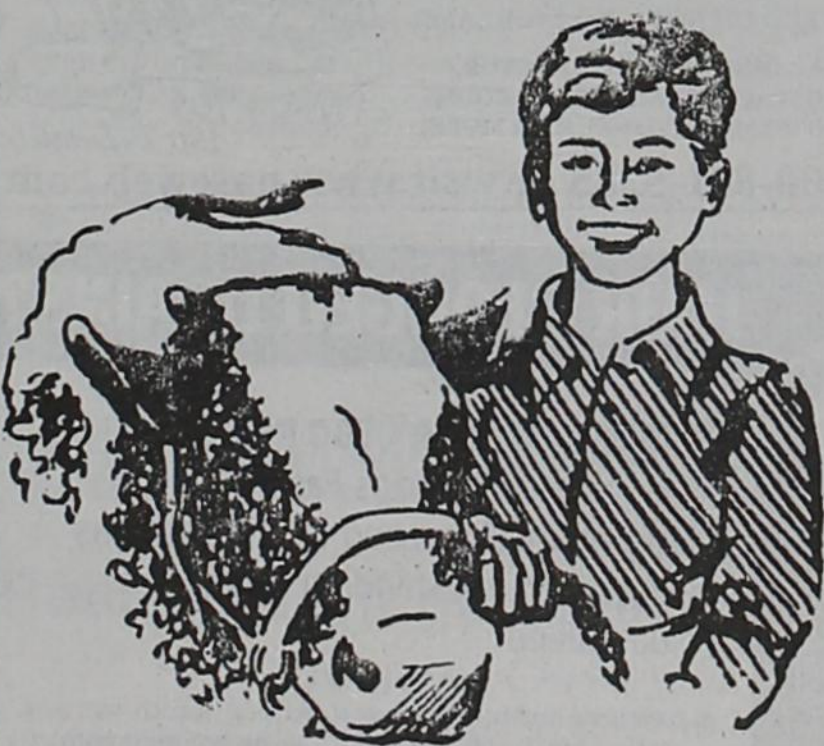


Good Luck in the Stock Show

*B & J Flowers*

Matador

Good Luck Motley County 4-H & FFA Stock Show participants



**Panhandle Plains Federal Land Bank**

Plainview, Texas

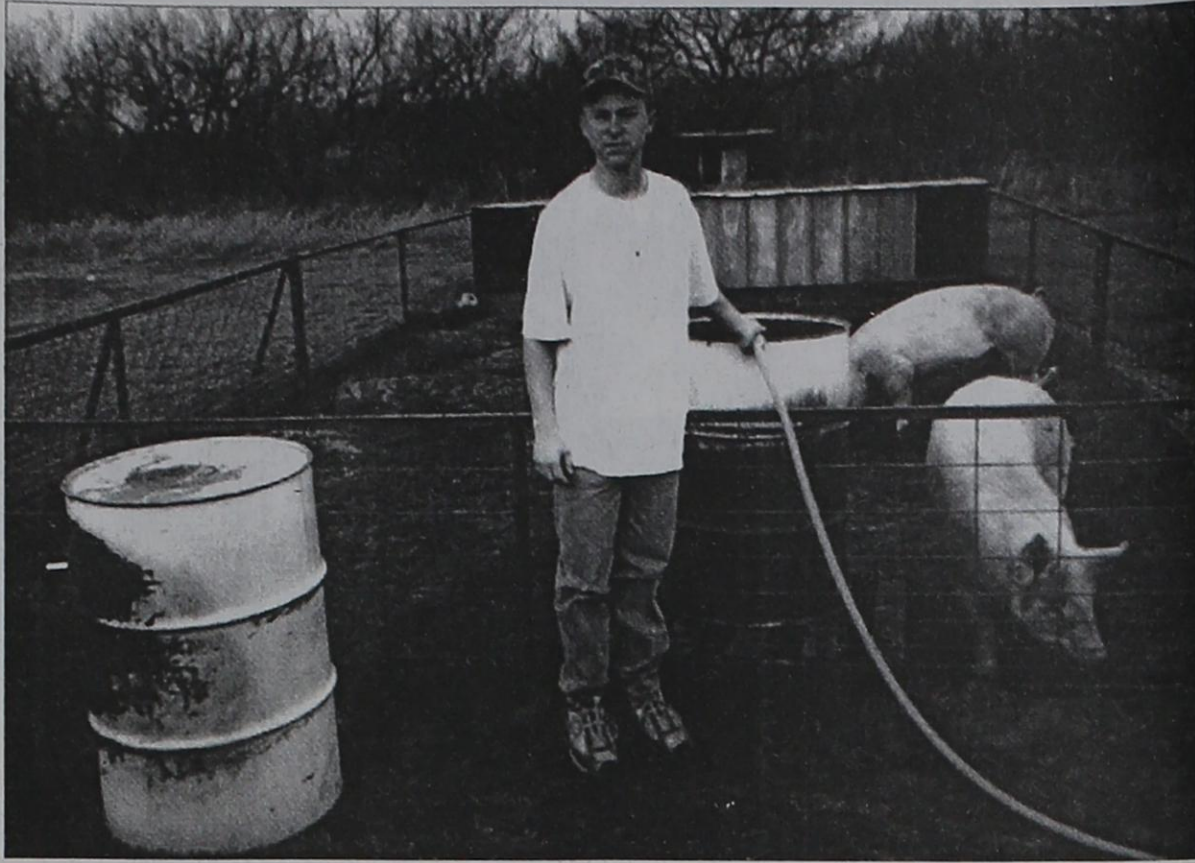


Good Luck at the Motley County Livestock Show

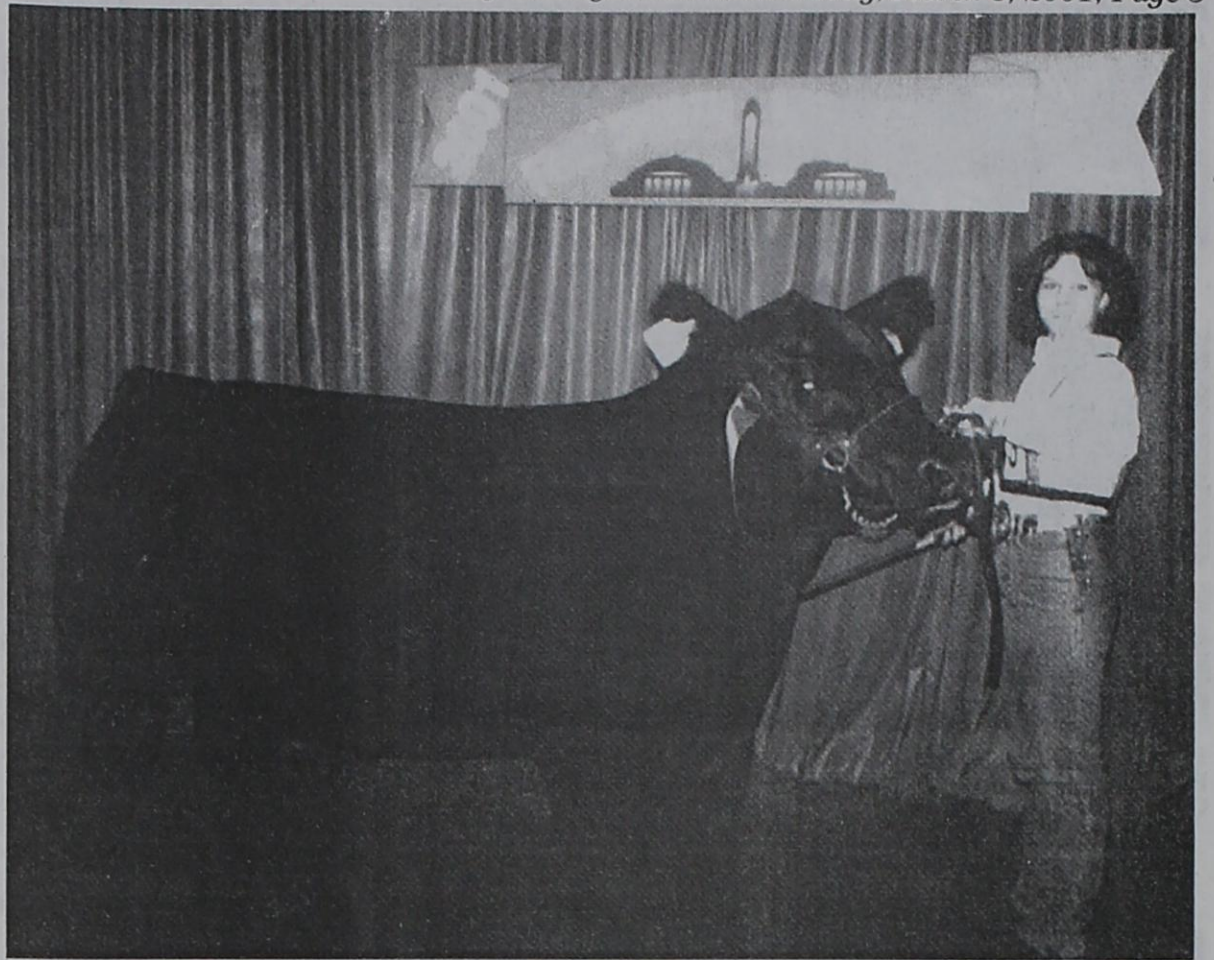


**Spur Security Bank**

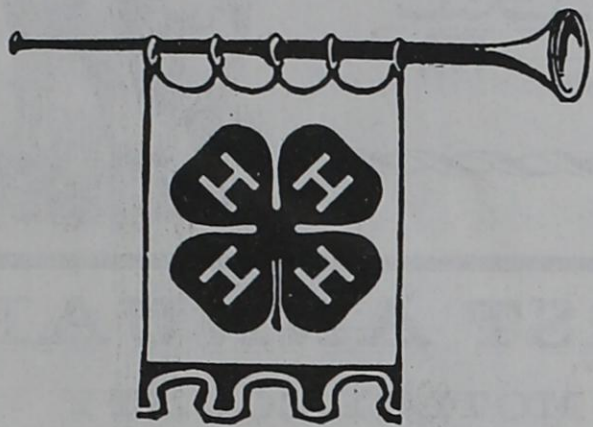




Motley County FFA member, Brandon Moore, works at the Ag Farm with his pigs. Brandon, along with many other 4-H and FFA members will show their animals at the 61st Annual Motley County Junior Livestock Show on Saturday, March 10.



FIRST PLACE — Kayla Copp received the first place ribbon for her European Breed Steer in the Middle Weight Class at the Fort Worth Stock Show held recently. Kayla is a Motley County Junior, a member of FFA and the daughter of Rick and Lana Copp.






*To make  
the best  
better ....*




Motley County FFA member, Clint Cooper works with his lambs to ready them for the upcoming Motley County Junior Livestock Show which will be held on Saturday.

*Good Luck  
At The  
Stock Show*

**Higginbotham  
Bartlett**



**SEEDS FROM THE SOWER**  
Michael A. Guido  
Metter, Georgia

Teenager Kim Jones decided to stop at Franklin, North Carolina, and dig for native rock. She unknowingly plucked out a 456-carat ruby valued at \$20,000 from a 25 cent bucket of gravel.

But a greater profit and pleasure is found in the Bible. Testified the Psalmist, "God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light."

"They are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey. For they warn us away from harm and give success to these who obey them."


*Students,  
Today...  
Leaders  
Tomorrow!*

*Good Luck as you  
participate in the MC  
Jr. Livestock Show!*



**MAIN STREET**  
CAFE & GIFT SHOP  
(next door to First State Bank)  
Main Street — Matador

*Good Luck!  
In The Stock Show*



**Thacker Jewelry**  
Roaring Springs

**4-H**





*Best of Luck  
In the  
Stock Show!*



**Matador Implement**



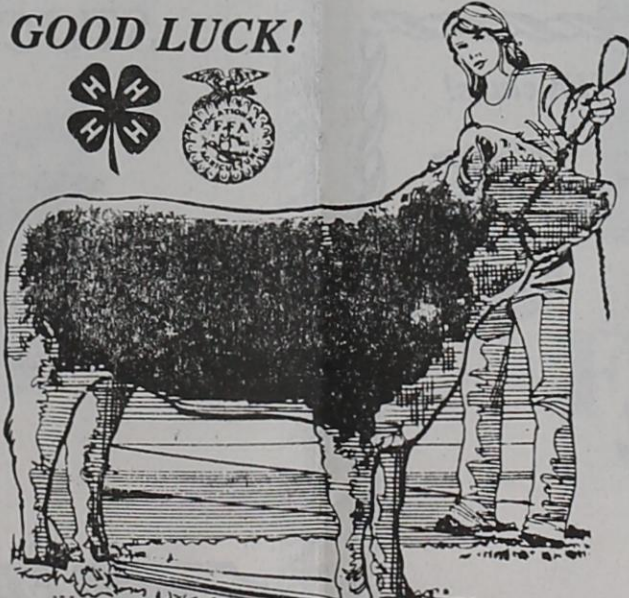
**Best of luck in the Stock Show!**

**CSR PolyPipe**  
Roaring Springs




*We support the Motley County  
Jr. Livestock Show*

**GOOD LUCK!**

**Lighthouse Electric**  
Floydada, Texas

*We support our Motley County  
youth and leaders and wish them  
the best of luck in the Stock Show!*

**AEP**  
**WEST TEXAS UTILITIES**

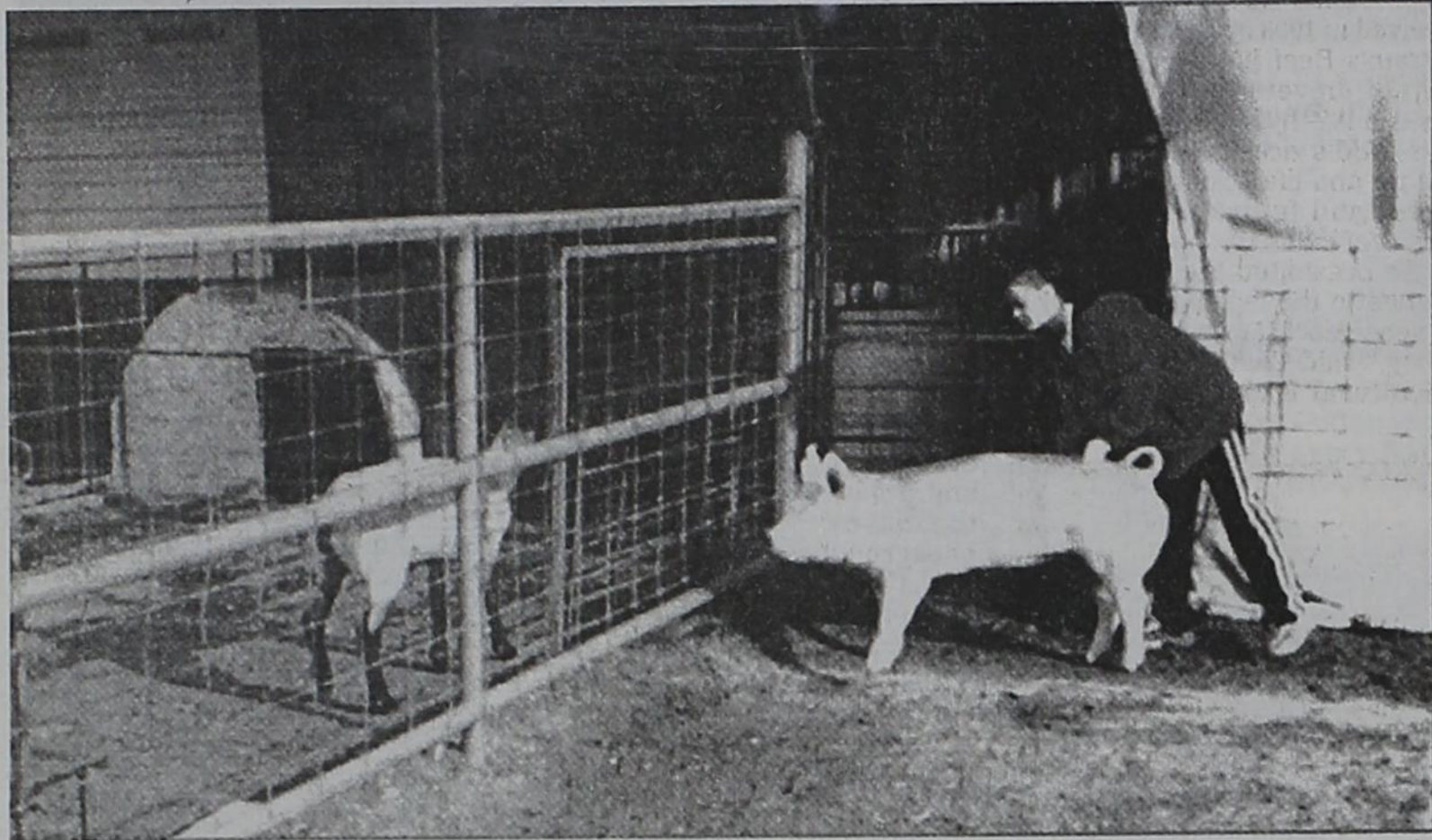




These Motley County FFA members attended the State Convention held in Corpus Christi in July. Pictured left to right are Kayla Copp, Brenda Gillespie, Brooke Decker, Scott Jones, Rachelle Renfro, Clint Cooper, Casey Lawrence, Benjamin Ridgley and Cassie Campbell.



Receiving their Lone Star Degree at the State FFA Convention held in Corpus Christi in July were Motley County FFA members Scott Jones, Brooke Decker, Rachelle Renfro, Casey Lawrence and Benjamin Ridgley.



Kayla Copp is pictured above working with her pigs at the Motley County Ag Farm.

AGRICULTURE'S  
**LEADING EDGE**  
FFA



On your way  
to adulthood

The vast majority of young people must go through a period of health rebellion on their way to adulthood. how else is the dependent child to become the spontaneous, creative, flexible adult capable of coping with our diverse, decision demanding society. Most do not pass through the change in personality patterns with deep composure and calm. If adults are to establish a more sympathetic and constructive relationship with young people, they need some feeling of what's going on at each progressive stage of growing up.

What do children need most at each stage of development? Young people don't suddenly become pre-adolescents, adolescents or older youth and they won't suddenly become adults. Each person comes out of a past and is gradually becoming someone in the future. There are special challenges appropriate to each "moment" of human life.

**61ST ANNUAL**



**MOTLEY COUNTY  
JUNIOR LIVESTOCK  
SHOW**



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Stock Show  
Participants

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At the Stock Show!**





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**Good Luck  
Stock Show  
Participants**




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and their Junior Livestock Show





**Caprock  
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The Clear Choice

Congratulations & best wishes to Motley County 4-H & FFA clubs!  
Good luck in the Stock Show





**MEREDITH**  
Construction — Gas & Supply


**BEST OF LUCK IN THE  
STOCK SHOW!**

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NATIONAL BANK  
OF FLOYDADA**



Member F.D.I.C.





## Texas Tech, Texas A&M researchers seek links between production and high value beef products

Lubbock -- Beef is big business in Texas, producing only slightly less statewide income than the oil industry. But Texas beef producers are traveling a rocky road before them — challenges such as market share, lower consumer confidence in beef products, and increasing production costs.

If producers know the impact production practices, animal genetics and environment have on beef products' tenderness, juiciness, flavor and marbling, they could adapt their production systems, animals and environment to raise beef with a high market (consumer) value.

Linking beef production systems and animal genetics to higher market value is the goal of a carcass quality research project recently undertaken by Texas A&M and Texas Tech scientists. It is one of six beef industry improvement projects operating under the banner of Texas Beef Initiative — a brainchild of Texas A&M's Agriculture Program.

The Texas Beef Initiative was conceived in 1998 by the Agriculture Program's Beef Industry Team — a group of university researchers formed in 1997 by Dr. Edward A Hiler, Texas A&M's vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences, to study present and future needs in the Texas beef industry.

"We presented the Texas Beef Initiative to the legislature in 1999, and received \$250,000 per year in funding," said Charles Long, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

resident director of research at Texas A&M's Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton and chair of the beef industry team. "The six projects funded are individually and collectively designed to help Texas beef producers reduce production costs, increase product consistency and consumer confidence, and develop efficient waste and odor management systems in their operations."

Texas A&M researchers in four sites began work with Texas Tech researchers on the carcass quality project in 1999. They placed 362 steer and heifer stocker calves bred at Overton, McGregor and Uvalde and weaned in mid-October on pasture at these three locations. The calves were fed different diets or grazed at different stocking rates to produce at least two rates of growth, and were kept on ryegrass pasture or native rangeland until May, 2000.

"We then shipped the calves to feedlots at McGregor and Texas Tech. The calves' monthly average daily gains were recorded while they were on pasture. We will take similar performance readings while they are on feed," said Monte Roquette, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forage physiologist at Overton. "We are interested in studying the effects of backgrounding, environment and pasture growth rate on feedlot performance."

At the Texas Beef Center the calves are penned in groups of five to seven head and weighed at 28-day intervals. This allows researchers to evaluate food intake, feed efficiency and production costs according to the calves' genetic management backgrounds, said Andy Herring, Texas Tech beef geneticist and associate professor of animal science and food technology.

The calves are then sold on the rail to a large commercial beef packer. Their carcass weight and quality and yield grades determine

their end market value.

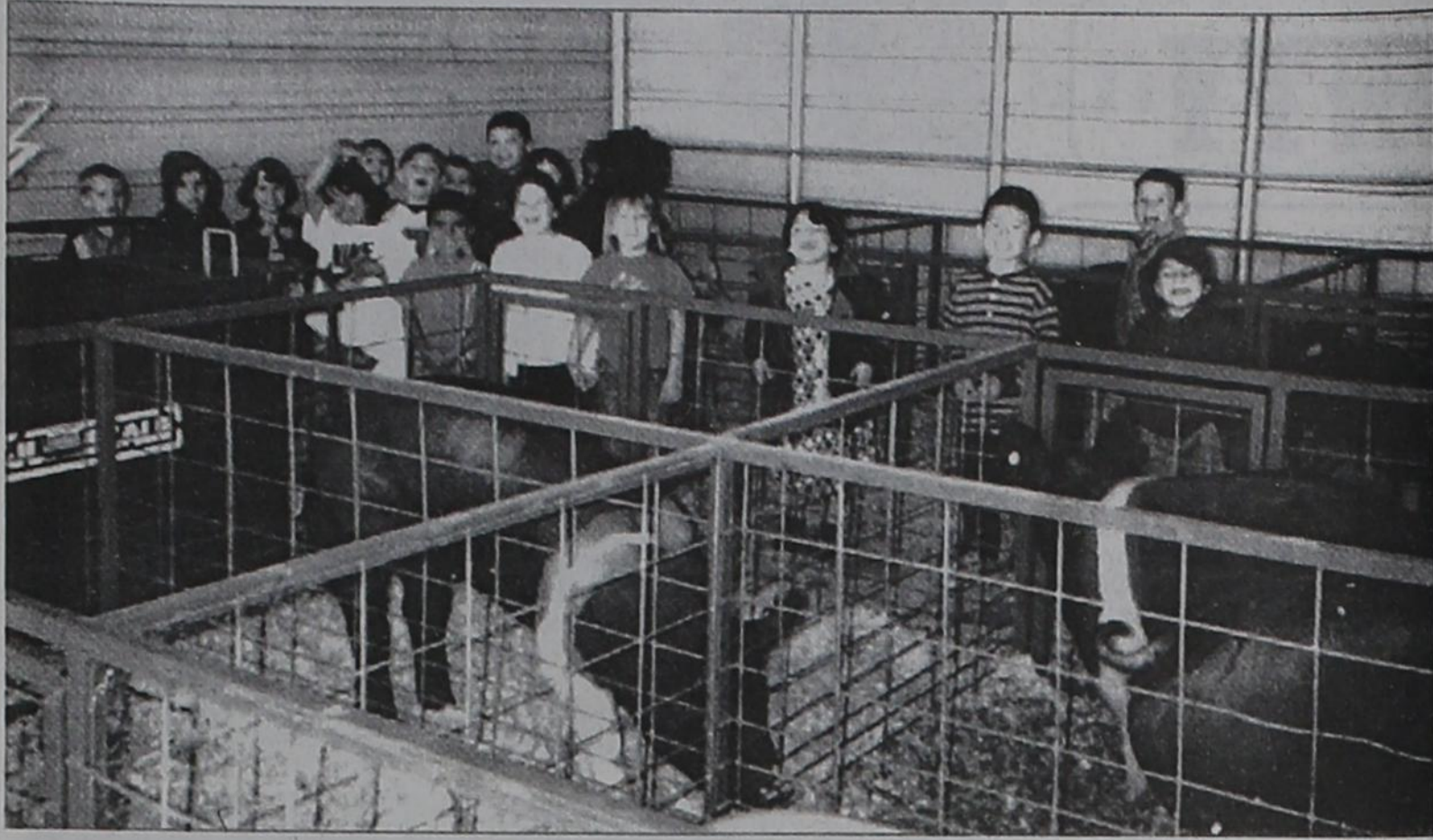
"After the calves are fed according to industry standards and slaughtered, we will evaluate their carcasses for hot weight, marbling, rib-eye area, leanness, and subcutaneous fat," Roquette said. "These traits determine the consumer value of retail beef products. We will also quantify the relationship between physical sensory characteristics and qualities such as tenderness and consumer acceptability."

"By tying ranch and feedlot performance together with carcass traits, this collaborative project will help cattlemen produce beef that better fits consumer preferences and increases their bottom-line profitability," Herring added.

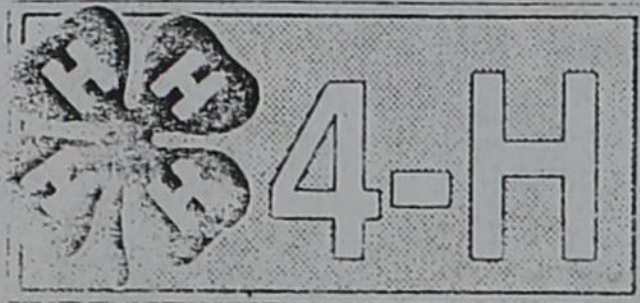
Researchers will repeat their pasture, feedlot and carcass performance trails through 2001. They plan to analyze and compile performance data from all trails into a publication that describes how genetics, environment, pasture growth rates and feedlot conditions affect the quality and desirability of beef products.

"We're fortunate to have scientists at several locations across Texas collaborating on this project. Their expertise and experience span many disciplines — from animal genetics, breeding and nutrition to forage physiology, veterinary medicine and food science," Long said. "In addition to growth, meat and carcass characteristics typically addressed in production research, we will measure physiological parameters assessing behavioral impacts — to seek relationships between stress and cattle performance."

"Our research teams will provide data that can be combined with previous research findings to identify beef production systems cattlemen can use to generate desirable, uniform beef products that will fit a variety of consumer-driven market niches."



Elementary Students enjoyed seeing the pigs recently. Some of these little ones will enjoy competing in the PeeWee Swine Show at Saturday's Junior Livestock Show.



### 61st Annual Motley County Junior Livestock Show

Good Luck!



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**Don't get me started...**

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Hats of to our  
MC FFA & 4-H  
Members & Leaders

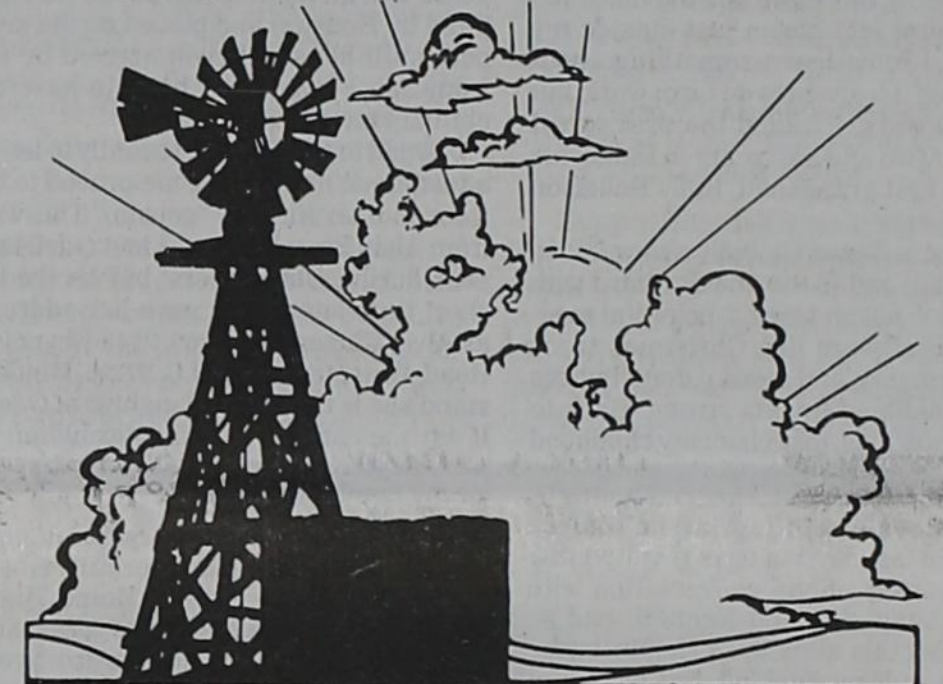
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at the Stock Show!



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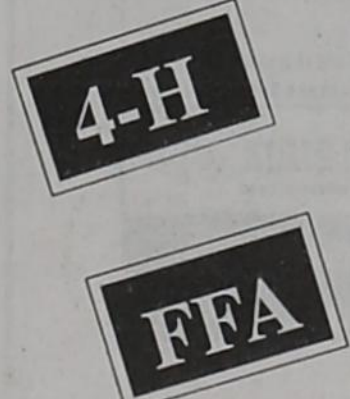
Good Luck  
Stock Show participants!

We support the  
Motley County Junior Livestock Show



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on outstanding members & leaders!



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AND WISH THEM  
THE BEST OF LUCK IN THE  
LIVESTOCK SHOW!



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# NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

## ROARING SPRINGS NEWS

BY ODESSA MULLINS

Miss Lula Swim was hostess to the coffee drinkers on Monday morning, March 5, at the Roaring Springs Methodist Fellowship Hall. Mrs. Mary Lumsden and Mrs. Pearl Patten helped with the refreshments. Those enjoying the morning, in addition to Miss Swim, were Mr. and Mrs. Corky Marshall, Mr. Dean McInroe, Mrs. Grace Zabielski, Mrs. Ruby Hipp, Mrs. Ruby McGuire, Mrs. Mary Lumsden, Mrs. Lea Peacock, Mrs. Reva Sweeney, Mrs. Zella Palmer, and Mrs. Dennis Letkeman.

Mrs. Pearl Patten accompanied Miss Lula Swim to Lubbock Tuesday morning where she had a biopsy of a tumor in her lung.

Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Peacock accompanied by Mrs. Lucille Fox of Crosbyton drove to Anahuac to attend the wedding of their children, Patrick Peacock to Sharon Fox King on February 17 at the First United Methodist Church Chapel of Anahuac by the Rev. Mack Endsley.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Peacock, Mrs. Lucille Fox, Randall King of Plano, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Travis King of Lubbock; Justin Peacock of Nacogdoches; Dale Peacock and Miranda Erkillia of Houston; Lee Ann Peacock of Anahuac; and Stacey Strother of Anahuac.

Mary Lumsden drove to Paducah, Monday, where she kept a doctor appointment.

Pearl Patten and Ruby Hipp had lunch at the Dickens Senior Citizens center and visited with friends, Monday.

Gene Stepson of Las Cruces, N.M. visited a week with her brother, Dean McInroe. Mr. and Mrs. Banty Brandon and Dean accompanied her to the Lubbock Airport, where she left for her trip home.

Lula Swim and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Letkeman attended revival services in Olton Sunday and Monday nights, where Rev. Monte Wike is holding revival services at the Methodist Church, there.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

BY RITA GROVES

You know how to write a column? You start. I've heard that when one reaches bottom, there is only one way to go - UP. So, here we go to write a column. Across the alley the Monday morning coffee drinkers are gathering. Since Lula Swim sponsors it as the cafe is closed each Monday, it is usually held in the Methodist Fellowship Hall about 9:30 a.m. Those of us who rise early and don't drink coffee, have had breakfast long since.

The surprising thing is that suddenly, even though we still have freezing weather about half the time, the grass is green! My fescue is ready to mow. Roger, the road runner was gone for several nights, but I was happy to see him back last night, roosting high on a raftie on my back porch. Spring always makes you notice all the old pecans that the wind brings down, but there is a Japonica fixing to burst into bloom just outside my window. I must learn something about gardening. I learned to do farm work, but not yard work. I traded the first yard I made for two and half years in California with my first grandchild, Kelly Rollefson - no regrets.

Back in Texas we built a new house in Quannah, and made another yard with fruit trees, pecan trees, 2 beautiful evergreens that were live Christmas trees from a nursery, and roses galore, but the call of "home" remains strong. Back to Roaring Springs, to reclaim my childhood home. (You see, you just start!)

Curiosity about the red vehicle parked in front of the Marshall guest house the last several days resulted in a very pleasant phone conversation with Diana Young. She and Kenneth had as their guest this week Ross Halpin whose home is in New Zealand, but who is at present living in Sydney, Australia. He is employed by the Coca Cola Company and manages the distribution of Coca-Cola for the Olympics in Australia. Mr. and Mrs. Young worked with him there from August until mid November last year. The Youngs are Community Volunteers and welcome visitors to their interesting home, pecan orchard and gardens somewhere in Block 41 between Fifth and Dundee Streets. If you don't have a Roaring Springs Map, I can furnish you with one.

Son, James Truman Groves, came to visit February 15 to 20th. He was not able to come for his father's funeral in January. Since being here for Algie's 90th birthday blast in 1999, he has had a heart attack, and also a bout with a malignant node that had to be removed from his jaw line near his ear. Radiation treatments relieved him of his saliva glands and taste buds. Eating is no longer a pleasure. His white hair has been replaced with a very short crew cut that the doctors say will turn black. We stayed pretty close to home. When asked if she remembered him, a 1949 Matador graduate, a friend kindly replied that she didn't believe so, and added that she was born in 1956. How can one live to be so old so quickly?

Son, Pat Groves came the 24th and tried valiantly to teach me how to communicate by e-mail, but besides being a slow learner, reading e-mail and respond-

ing, is too much fun and takes too much of my time and the smart machine disconnects if my interest wanders as much as 15 minutes.

On Sunday afternoon, February 25th, a call from Melvin Renfro informed us that his brother Robert Harold Renfro, Jr. had been killed in a car accident that day between his home in Beaumont and his work in Houston. "Rear ended at a stop sign by a huge truck." Rob and Melvin had a habit of turning up when there was a family catastrophe - they flew to Lubbock, rented a car and got to Matador to Aunt Zola Renfro's funeral or when they showed up for Uncle Algie's funeral. Melvin takes care of his mother in his home in Carrollton, and Dr. "Rob" was always "there" for Mike when he got lost in the maze of hospitals in Houston. His death was instantaneous, but he was airlifted by Houston and placed on life support until his son Bryon arrived by air from San Francisco. I hope to have an obituary later this week.

A call to the Tribune recently to leave a telephone number for me proved to be from another Kingery "cousin." This was from Alvis Boya Kingery. I met Odell last year during Old Settlers, but he died a short time later. Alvis gave her address as Alvis Kingery, Apt. 359, 2945 Reynolds Road, Winston Salem, N.C. 27106. I understand she is the oldest daughter of Odell. If anyone can add to this information of Alvis Boya Kingery, I would like to have it for my family records.

Lucille Meador Woolery has a new address and is happier there. Her new address is: Teague Nursing Home, Highway 84, Box 89, Teague, Texas 75860. She misses Lila and enjoys hearing from you. She wrote that the birds are coming back, and soon she will be able to sit on the porch and watch them. She mentioned Scissortails, which some say are scarce here, but I see them out at the Owl's Nest. They're called the flycatcher. Just the 42 color plates of birds in my Encyclopedia Junior Britannica are worth more than the \$5.00 I paid for the set at the Library Book Sale.

Letter from Charlie and Viola Keith told of the wonderful Valentine Party and dance, at their retirement home, where she and Charlie were crowned King and Queen, were given roses, candy, and a bottle of wine! She remarked that "no one else danced to the music." I get that impression everytime I see modern dancing.

A visitor turned up just in time to "make my day" yesterday. The longtime friend, formerly Dolores Frances Goodwin, the daughter of Curtis and Hortense Yeates Goodwin, and the granddaughter of Uncle Britt and Aunt Mattie Goodwin. We had such a fun time reminiscing until approaching dark drove her back to her home east of Glenn, Texas. She barely remembers her Grandfather Goodwin, but I remembered him well and Aunt Mattie. I was baptized in the Goodwin tank (dread hazzard for me) that was between the tee-off place and hole #2 on our old Golf Course. Thanks for listening!

## FLOMOT NEWS

BY EARLYNE JAMESON

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Kennedy, Jackie and Tanya of Wellington visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey, Saturday. Jackie and Tanya remained to visit during their school spring holidays.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogers, Friday were grandson and family, Dave and Krystal Degan and new baby son, Kyler of Lubbock.

Tom Ross attended the Men's Breakfast at the Baptist Church in Matador Saturday morning. He attended the Caprock Telephone Cooperative annual meeting held in Spur Saturday afternoon.

Visitors of Mrs. C.W. Starkey, Sunday were daughter and family, Mrs. Ersie

VanCleeve, Mrs. Kelly VanCleeve and Kimberly of Dougherty.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Kingery of Shallowater visited Sunday with parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Tiffin.

Angelia and Larry Clay were in Houston from Thursday until Sunday for Angelia treatment at the M.D. Anderson Hospital. Their children, Tanner, Kelsey, and Sarah visited the weekend with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay who returned home from Houston Friday. Angelia will be taking treatments in Lubbock and Houston the next several weeks. (Sorry my telephone was out of order during the weekend)

## WHITEFLAT NEWS

BY EARLYNE JAMESON

### OVERHEARD

Two Aggies are lost in the woods on a hunting trip.

"Well, what do we do now?" asked one. "The Boy Scout manual says to fire a round in the air every ten minutes," said the other. "It is a S.O.S. signal. Someone will save us."

The first Aggie fires a round in the air. Both wait ten minutes, but nobody comes. He fires another round in the air and they wait another ten minutes. The same thing happens. As he is about to fire a third round, the first Aggie turns to the other and says, "This better work, it's my last arrow."

### NEW RESIDENTS

We welcome Lawrence and Sharon Allen to the Whiteflat community. They bought the home and acreage of Diane Price who moved to Acuff. The Allens moved from the rural area in Loving County, New Mexico after his retirement. He is helping Billy Paul Simpson of Northfield part-time with his cattle feeding in Whiteflat. As most retirees he said, "It gives me something to do."

Mrs. Allen is in Houston with her

mother, Mrs. Bertha Campbell, who suffered a stroke.

Jack Samford of Afton and Mrs. Juanita Cooper visited in Aspermont, Saturday with Mrs. Willidee King. Mr. Samford and Mrs. Cooper joined her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Dunnam and Kourtney of Amarillo in Lubbock, Saturday and attended the volleyball tournament held at the Lubbock High School gym. Kourtney and her teammates played in this tournament. Fifteen teams competed and Kourtney's team placed third in the finals, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H.R. "Skeet" Jameson visited in Quitaque, Sunday with Eunice and Sid McFall and their weekend houseguests, Mrs. Beth Whitener and son, John of Paducah. Eunice returned home Friday following surgery Tuesday at the Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. She is doing fine.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gwinn, Danielle and Fannin visited in Matador, Friday at the Gwinn home with his sister, Aly Gwinn of Lubbock and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raetz of Matador.

## MATADOR NEWS

C.D. Garrison had neck surgery last Tuesday at the Covenant Medical Center in Plainview. He is recovering just fine and had a good biopsy report.

Mrs. Billy Paul (Betty) Simpson had surgery at General Hospital in Wichita Falls this past Monday. She is reported to be recovering just fine.

Maudie and Christol Swearingen of

Dickens accompanied Mrs. Myer Spears to Lubbock, Monday for a medical appointment.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bill Koon following her recent hand surgery in Lubbock were their children, Kenneth Koon of Plano and Mrs. Karen Fleming of Little Rock, Arkansas.



**HONORED AT BANQUET** — American Legion Post 337 Commander, Jerry Green, presented certificates of Appreciation to Bundy Campbell, representing the Matador Lions Club (top), and Suzanne Abbott, Librarian of the Motley County Library, at the American Legion Appreciation Banquet held Monday, Feb. 26. Commander Green commented, "The Matador Lions Club has exhibited outstanding citizenship by the display of the United States Flag on Memorial Day and other occasions. The Library, under Mrs. Abbott's professional and steady hand, has provided generous support to Legion activities and programs for the past several years."

## Obituaries

### Glenda Tippen

Graveside services for Glenda Tippen, 64, of Glencoe, N.M., were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3rd at the Garden of Memories Cemetery with the Rev. Arthur Green officiating.

Burial was under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Home of Ruidoso, N.M. She died Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001, at her home.

She was born Aug. 15, 1936, in East Afton and married Kenneth Tippen on June 5, 1954, in Paducah. She moved from Lincoln County to Paducah in 1992.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Lee Jack Tippen of Whitesboro; two daughters, Lynne Jones of Missouri City and Jeanna Middleton of Lubbock; and seven grandchildren.

### Don Louis Woods

Funeral services for Don Louis Woods were held Wednesday, February 21, in Clouderoft, N.M. Mr. Woods died February 20, 2001, in Alamogordo, New Mexico. He was born to Clem and Mae Dell Woods in 1933.

He went to school in the Quitaque, Flomot area, graduating from Flomot High School. He was a Navy veteran.

He married Elizabeth Woods of Quitaque. He is survived by two daughters, Judy Woods of Amarillo and Lisa Sisneros of El Paso; and one son, Matt Woods of Chico, California; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild; one sister, Clema Dell Rand of Clouderoft, N.M.; and an aunt, Kathryn Russell of Matador.

### Wanda Joy Timmons

Funeral services for Wanda Joy Timmons, 54, of Childress were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 3, 2001 at the Parkview Baptist Church. The Rev. Don McFarland, pastor, officiated.

Burial was in the Childress Cemetery under the direction of the Johnson Funeral Home.

Mrs. Timmons died Thursday, March 1, in Amarillo.

She was born in Childress. She was a licensed vocational nurse at the Childress Regional Medical Center, retiring after sixteen years. She was a member of the Parkview Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don Timmons in Childress; three brothers, Weldon Nail of Fritch, Alton Nail of Childress and Wayne Nail of Borger.

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# Farm and Ranch News

## Foot and Mouth Disease marches westward, Animal Health officials fear spread of virus

Animal health officials in Texas are watching with concern the relentless westward march of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), the most recent outbreak of which was confirmed in late February at several sites in England, where livestock operations already have been financially ravaged by the brain-wasting disease, BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and outbreaks of the viral infection, hog cholera.

Additional cases of FMD have been detected among cattle, sheep and swine in Great Britain (encompassing England, Wales and Scotland). In addition to the loss of thousands of animals, British farmers may lose as much as \$73 million just from the weeklong ban (which could be extended on the transport and marketing of livestock susceptible to the disease.

FMD, which has not been seen in the U.S. since 1929, is caused by a highly infectious virus that can cause death or disabling blisters and sores in and around the mouth, muzzle, teats and feet of livestock with cloven or "split" hooves. Cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and deer are highly susceptible, and can exhibit clinical disease signs after an incubation period of only three to eight days. To stop the spread of infection, affected or exposed animals must be slaughtered then burned or buried. Premises and equipment must be disinfected to prevent disease spread.

"Foot and mouth virus poses special challenges, requiring proper disinfection and biosecurity protocols. People who have worked around or been near infected animals can inadvertently carry and spread the virus via their equipment, cars, clothing, shoes, or even for a short time in their lungs or pharynx (throat)," said Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. As she pointed out that studies indicate the virus can drift up to 40 miles on the wind, another hurdle to confining an FMD outbreak to a defined geographic area.

"FMD is probably the most economically damaging livestock disease." The disease is currently affecting four of the world's seven continents: Asia, Africa, South America and Europe, leaving only North America, Australia and Antarctica free of the disease.

"An outbreak costs a country millions of dollars to fight, and thousands of animals can be lost. Additionally, livestock markets must be closed to prevent spread of infection, dairies may not be able to operate, and transportation of livestock must cease. Furthermore, there's the cost of depopulating and disposing of affected or exposed animals and vaccinating 'clean animals' to create a disease-free 'buffer zone,'" said Dr. Logan, a specialist in tick-borne and foreign animal diseases. She also serves on a national term reviewing how best to safeguard U.S. livestock from foreign diseases and pests.

Dr. Logan urged livestock producers in Texas to step up their surveillance and to take precautions to protect herds from possible contamination. "If you've traveled internationally, don't risk carrying disease home to your herd. Disinfect your boots before working with your livestock. Producers who feed wastefood to swine should be particularly careful to ensure that all scraps are well cooked," she said. She also suggested that producers limit vehicle traffic and visitors onto their premise, and keep new animals isolated for several days prior to adding them to the existing herd.

"If your livestock become lame or develop blisters or sores, call us at 1-800-550-8242. Our emergency response within the first 24 hours after the first signs of disease will affect the outcome over the next six months," Dr. Logan said. The TAHC and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Veterinary Services in Texas operate the toll-free number 24 hours a day for emergency calls.

While FMD vaccine is available,

Dr. Logan said it is used only in emergencies, to create a "disease-free" buffer zone around an infected area. Because vaccinated animals will test positive, they cannot be shipped internationally and protocols require the animals to be destroyed as soon as the disease is eradicated.

"Most importantly, FMD outbreaks result in trade embargoes imposed by other countries," said Dr. Logan.

"South Korea, for instance, had been free of FMD since 1934, but was struck by the virus in late March, 2000," she reported. "Producers in that country intended to export \$400 million worth of pork in 2000, but Japan and its other trading partners immediately shut their doors to South Korean exported animals and products. It can take years to be declared disease-free and reestablish international marketing opportunities."

"Consider the damage to our economy, if we were to have the disease introduced into the U.S. and exports of live animals and meat were prohibited. Last year, the U.S. shipped out more than \$4.2 billion worth of these commodities, Texas ranked third among all states, shipping out more than \$736 million in animals and meat products," she said.

"For years, we worried about domestic regulatory diseases that are 'tame' compared to the devastation of foreign animal disease," said Dr. Logan. "A global economy brings with it global risks, and we must be prepared for the inevitable threats posed by international trade and travel."

"I am particularly concerned when cases of FMD occur close to a highly populated area - or near a major international airport," said Dr. Max Coats, who heads up the TAHC's animal health programs and field operations. "Because of the virus' ability to ride the wind, it's possible that ranching or farming equipment being exported by affected countries could be contaminated, it may sound far-fetched, but with a disease of this impact, we're always concerned about potential scenarios. Within 24 hours, an animal, animal product, person or piece of equipment can be transported nearly anywhere in the world. There's always a chance that a virus, pest or dangerous bacteria will be hitching the ride, too."

"Then there are the items travelers like to tote on long flights, such as sandwiches, delicacies or other food items that could be contaminated by the virus," he said. Although direct flights from countries affected by FMD are checked carefully, Dr. Coats said, there's always a risk that contaminated items could be smuggled or inadvertently brought into the country by the millions of visitors and returning U.S. citizens who travel internationally. Around 4.5 million British residents, for example, came to the U.S. on direct flights in 1999.

During the past year, more than two dozen countries have been plagued by outbreaks of FMD, and the virus continues to migrate westward, noted Dr. Logan. In early March 2000, Japan reported its first cases since 1908, and Japanese authorities laid blame on imported straw contaminated with the virus.

"Within two weeks of the initial case, Japanese livestock authorities checked more than 25,000 dairies, nearly 27,000 beef cattle farms and almost 3,700 pig farms to determine if there was additional infection," said Dr. Logan. "If this scenario occurred in Texas, the TAHC field staff would be unable to handle this enormous task alone, and we would have to summon help from private veterinary practitioners, our partners within the state's emergency management system, and our federal counterparts in the USDA." (Of the 215 TAHCers about 100 are livestock inspectors and around 20 are veterinarians.)

"Swine are highly efficient and effective hosts for FMD," said Dr. Coats. "And, with more than two million wild or feral swine in Texas, our

challenge would be nearly insurmountable if the disease became established in this free-ranging population."

By Valentine's Day 2001 reports indicated that more than 500 animals had died from the disease in eastern Mongolia, a large country bordered on the south and east by China (also affected) and by Russia to the north. A year later, FMD outbreaks continued in Mongolia, where winter blizzards also wiped out more than 1.5 million animals.

By Easter last year, Russia reported cases among swine herds in its eastern regions, and in late spring, infection was detected at a pig farm in Kazakhstan, which shares borders with China and Russia. In August, infection drifted southward into the small country of Tajikistan where cases among cattle and sheep herds were reported.

"We're monitoring the movement of FMD closely. Buffer zones and existing prevention efforts seem to have failed, as one after another, countries are hit by the disease," said Dr. Coats. "Foreign animal diseases, like FMD, are the 'gift that keeps on giving,' as demonstrated by the 2001 resurgence of infection in Taiwan, after the country lost nearly all of its swine herds in 1997 outbreaks."

"This most recent FMD outbreak affecting England was initially detected by a veterinarian inspecting pigs at a slaughter plant in a town northeast of London. Since then, cases have been disclosed throughout Great Britain, which has about 157,000 livestock farms," commented Dr. Coats. He said British authorities believe the virus may have been introduced through the feeding of contaminated wastefood to swine. Sheep on a nearby farm were exposed and may have spread infection to as many as 25,000 animals when they were hauled to three markets.

"Livestock shows in Great Britain have been cancelled, and animal parks and zoos have been closed. Horse events also have been postponed, even equine are not susceptible to the disease. Fears are that the virus could be carried and spread either by the horses' hooves or by the vehicles used to transport the animals," commented Dr. Coats. He said French authorities are destroying more than 47,000 British sheep that were recently imported. He pointed out that, in Germany, authorities are taking precautions, destroying susceptible animals that were recently shipped in from Great Britain. In the Netherlands, more than 4,300 susceptible livestock and deer have been killed on farms that have links to Great Britain. Livestock markets in the Netherlands also are being closed for a week, he said.

"Worldwide, nearly two-thirds of the FMD outbreaks are attributed to the introduction and feeding of contaminated meat, meat products or garbage to animals," said Dr. Logan. She said about a quarter of infection is spread by airborne transmission, and about 10 percent is comprised of infected livestock importations or

contaminated objects and people."

"The FMD situation is a lot like watching a hurricane develop. We can't pinpoint its next landfall, but we know its direction. We must be prepared to take action immediately if the virus is introduced into the U.S. - or Texas," said Dr. Logan.

Two free-grazing cattle herds in northeastern Greece, near the Turkish border, were struck by the disease in July 2000, and surrounding cattle, goat and swine herds were destroyed. In the fall, Turkish governmental authorities requested more than \$43 million in International aid to curtail livestock smuggling in its eastern and southeastern regions and stop the introduction of FMD and its potential spread into Europe.

South American countries were hit by infection in late summer 2000, said Dr. Coats. Paraguay was struck first in early August, followed by outbreaks in Uruguay and Colombia. Argentinean officials blamed their country's outbreak on cattle smuggled from Paraguay. An Argentinean newspaper reported that as many as 20,000 head were illegally smuggled in from Paraguay.

When a Brazilian dairy was hit by the disease, Brazil's minister of agriculture reported that he suspected bioterrorism, as the virus was of a different strain than the one detected in Paraguay and Argentina. (FMD virus has as many as seven types and 70 differing strains.)

"Argentina is the world's fourth-largest cattle-producing country, and producers had planned to expand their exports by \$5 billion in 2000. Brazil is the world's largest exporter of beef. Both countries lost their marketing opportunities when FMD hit the countries," said Dr. Coats.

"When infection spread to Uruguay, the military shut down all human and animal movement and dropped food into the restricted area from helicopters," said Dr. Logan, who visited the country last fall. "Animals in the affected area were euthanized and buried within 24 hours, which stopped the spread of disease. Uruguayan officials and producers had prepared for such an outbreak ahead of time by setting up funds to pay producers for their livestock losses."

FMD also wreaked havoc in South Africa in summer 2000, when viral-contaminated wastefood was off-loaded from a foreign vessel and fed to swine. "This situation mirrored the scenario for the tabletop emergency disease exercise in November, conducted cooperatively by the U.S., Canada and Mexico," said Dr. Coats. "In the simulated outbreak, a South Texas producer collected contaminated wastefood from a foreign ship and fed it to his pigs. Within two weeks, routine livestock marketing and movement could have spread the disease across Texas and into several states and Canada. We estimated it would have cost \$50 million to eradicate the disease just in Hidalgo County."

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## Rural Community Affairs office created

A bill to establish a state Office of Rural Community Affairs was announced this week by its author, Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa. The legislation is aimed at helping local governments in the state's 196 non-metropolitan counties gain access to technology, spark economic development, secure quality health care and repair roads. House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, Chisum and other lawmakers, at the conclusion of the last session, crafted the plan.

The office would provide local leaders grant-writing and community marketing strategy assistance that larger cities can afford to hire private firms to do. Acting as their liaison between state agencies and other resources, the rural affairs of-

office would do the research and advise communities on ways to develop new industries, such as tourism and recreation. The bill calls for the office to be funded by the \$85 million in federal grants from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs currently used for rural programs. More than likely, the Center for Rural Health Initiatives would be combined with the new office.

Supporters of the new legislation feel it needs attention now, before representatives in Austin become even fewer in number. Only 13 percent of Texas is still rural and the number of farmers and ranchers is down to 3 percent and falling.

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It plays an integral role in agriculture's progress, and while the Farm Bill is not scheduled to be revamped until 2002, Congress could start taking a look at it as early as 2001. That's why the Texas Department of Agriculture recently hosted a listening session in Austin to gather ideas from more than 40 agricultural organizations and individual farmers and ranchers on how the Farm Bill should be shaped.

To keep agriculture strong and moving forward, producers overwhelmingly agreed that we must have additional federal assistance for preventing the introduction of plant diseases and pests from across the border.

It also must address drought, which has been reducing farmers' and ranchers' incomes since the last Farm Bill was reauthorized in 1996. It needs to provide an adequate safety net without having to rely on ad-hoc disaster bailouts, which some countries consider subsidies.

And it also should promote a level playing field for international trade. U.S. producers are faced with unfair competition and contend with arbitrary trade barriers by foreign governments.

Clearly we need a better safety net for producers. Let's work together to make our voices heard in Washington, D.C. and go to bat for agricultural producers across the United States.

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**NOTICE OF ELECTION**  
 The City of Matador will hold a general election on May 5, 2001, to fill three Councilperson positions with two-year terms. Applications for a place on the ballot will be available at City Hall during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. City of Matador will begin accepting applications February 19, 2001. March 21, 2001, at 4:00 p.m. will be the last day applications will be accepted. Drawing for the ballot position will be held at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall in Matador.

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