

**MOTLEY-DICKENS OLD SETTLERS RODEO & REUNION
KEEPSAKE SCHEDULE AND VENDOR GUIDE**

INSIDE

THE TEXAS SPUR

SINCE 1909 ★ NEWS FOR DICKENS AND KENT COUNTIES



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RIG DEBUTS AT MOTLEY-DICKENS OLD SETTLERS THIS WEEK

Spur's Salt Fork Outfitters takes show on the road for rodeo



BIG RIGS The blue Salt Fork Outfitters semi, a mobile showroom for a wide selection of boots, hats, belts and accessories for men and women, will pull into the Motley-Dickens Rodeo & Reunion grounds this weekend in Roaring Springs. A second trailer will host a band performance by Justin Ross & Deadwood Revival Saturday afternoon. | CAPROCK COURIER

BARBARA BRANNON | CAPROCK COURIER

For more than a century now, Motley and Dickens Counties have gathered together to picnic, ride horses, and gab about old times.

Note that reverent emphasis on “old.” But also bringing young folks out the Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo—set to hold its 101st gathering this weekend in Roaring Springs—will be the key to its survival into its second century, according to one Spur merchant.

Jeremy Rutledge, entrepreneur, innkeeper, storekeeper—and a rancher himself—has tapped into youthful talent himself at his newly opened Salt Fork Outfitters on Burlington

See **SALT FORK**, page 7

UNDER THE DOME Jeri Holcomb, now a sophomore at Spur ISD, was selected for both Texas 4-H Congress, where she participated in a mock legislature in Austin this summer, and a week of Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador training at Texas Tech. | COURTESY PHOTO



STORY ON PAGE 4



OLD SETTLERS SATURDAY Justin Ross & Deadwood Revival, a rock group from Fort Worth will appear on Saturday afternoon at the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo in Roaring Springs at the Salt Fork Outfitters stage. | COURTESY PHOTO



MEET THE BULLDOGS, SPURETTES Spur families, students and fans got their opportunity to Meet the Bulldogs and the Spurettes Friday night at Jones Stadium. The football team scrimmaged the Kress Kangaroos, new to the realigned district. The gridiron action was followed by an ice cream supper. See more photos on page 9. | TEXAS SPUR PHOTO

A familiar friend in Thailand

DAVID PAFFORD | SPECIAL TO THE TEXAS SPUR

David Pafford of Spur and his son Caleb continue their travels through Asia, arriving for a sojourn in Thailand. “If you would

like to see more photos and hear the ‘long version’ of our story,” wrote Pafford, “please visit the website www.farther-beyond.com/circumnavigation. I hope you will join us each week to hear the latest report.”

Suebsak Macha-roenrungreang went by “Vun” (pronounced “woon”) when he attended school in Spur during the 2020–21 school year.

You can imagine why. Foreign exchange students with names Americans would find difficult to pronounce often adopt Americanized monikers to fit in better and make communication easier with classmates and teachers. I usually oppose this practice. A name is a very personal thing, and I want to learn how to say a kid’s name correctly, rather than just calling them “Bob” or something.

When I heard track and field announcers try to say Macha-roenrungreang, Vun seemed like the better option. He went by Vun at home in Thailand, too, so that made me feel better.

Vun faced many obstacles during his academic year in America. His placement agency just about threw up their hands in trying to place students in the wake of Covid. Texas was probably the only place he could have come. A

second agency picked up Vun’s pool of applicants late and were looking for an emergency placement for him. We enjoyed hosting exchange students, and invited him to join us, late though it was.

I felt bad for him. Like many East Asian students, See **PAFFORD**, page 9

Dickens County enacts burn ban Aug. 15

STAFF REPORTS

Dickens County has issued an Order Restricting Outdoor Burning effective August 15 for 90 days, in unincorporated areas of the county.

Specific restrictions and exceptions are outlined in a public notice posted at the Dickens County Courthouse and on the county’s Facebook page.

Numerous grass fires have been reported on ranch land in or near the county in recent days. Dry weather, with temperatures peaking several degrees above the century mark, is persisting for this week before a return to more moderate summertime conditions.



COMMUNITY | news@TheTexasSpur.com
What's happening

COMING UP IN TEXAS SPUR COUNTRY

Submit your community announcements (maximum 75 words) to news@thetexaspur.com for events within the coming month, to run up to 4 issues

Local Events

Please let us know of any corrections: News@thetexaspur.com

SPECIAL BOND PRESENTATIONS FOR JAYTON-GIRARD ISD COMMUNITY

Sunday, Sept. 8, 4 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m., Kent County Community Center, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton

DICKENS COUNTY-SPUR LIBRARY story time, Thursdays, 10 a.m., ages babies to preschool, 403 E. Hill St., Spur

KENT COUNTY EXTENSION & 4-H will have its annual End-of-Year Awards and Rally Night, Thursday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m., Jayton Community Center. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream.

MOTLEY-DICKENS OLD SETTLERS REUNION & RODEO will be held Thursday–Saturday, Aug. 22–24, in Roaring Springs. The parade will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 24. To enter to win parade prizes, register at the table on the corner of 4th and Broadway, Roaring Springs.

DICKENS COUNTY 4-H & AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE is hosting Bounce into 4-H, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 5–7 p.m., Dickens County 4-H Center on Chalk St., Dickens. There will be project booths and enrollment assistance. Enrollment is free and open to kindergarten–12th grade. For more information, contact Amanda Spiva, (806) 623-5552.

SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Spur Mini-Cheer Camp, Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at the Dome, with hot dog lunch provided

SAVE THE DATE for the 1st Annual Spur Chili Cookoff, Saturday, Oct. 12, noon, Spur Senior Center, 210 Burlington. Entry deadline is Friday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m. All entries and fees must be received by this date. Please contact the Spur Area Chamber of Commerce, 101 E. Hill St. or (806) 271-3097, for more information.



GREETINGS FROM THAILAND Students and school staff back home in Spur remember Suebsak Macha-roenrungreang as “Vun.” David Pafford and his son, Caleb, had the opportunity to visit with Vun (far left) in his own home country last week. **MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 8** | COURTESY PHOTO

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Please send announcements, calendar events, and news items to news@thetexasspur.com
Display ads, classifieds, legal notices and obituaries should be submitted to spur@thetexasspur.com
Information may be dropped off locally at 424 N. Burlington Ave., Spur.

THE TEXAS SPUR is a weekly publication published 52 times per year, covering Dickens and Kent Counties, including Spur, Dickens, Afton, McAdoo, Clairemont, Jayton and Girard. All submissions are run at the discretion of the editor.

CONTENT SUBMISSIONS Deadline for ad submissions, announcements and news is Monday at noon.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTIONS Changes of addresses, renewals, temporary stops can be emailed to spur@thetexasspur.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$45/yr for mailing addresses within Dickens and Kent counties (\$39/yr for residents 65 and older); \$56/yr elsewhere in Texas and out-of-state; and \$39/yr or \$5/mo for online subscriptions.

Go to www.thetexasspur.com to subscribe using PayPal, or send payment to The Texas Spur, P.O. Box 430, Spur, TX 79370.

ADVERTISING display rates are \$5.70 per column inch local and \$8.00 per column inch national. Obituary notices, classified ads, and text-only legal notices are \$10 for the first 35 words plus 25¢ for each additional word; photos are \$5.00. In display format, such notices are \$5.27 per column inch. Engagement, wedding, anniversary, and birth announcements are free (500 word / 1 photo maximum).

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION **West Texas Press Association**

EDITORIAL | spur@thetexasspur.com

Paragraphs & pixels

BARBARA BRANNON

ROUTE 66 RAMBLE, PART 6: TEXAS

Back in Texas—but not home yet

Crossing the state line westbound from Oklahoma brings us into familiar territory—not just because it’s the state where Kay and I live and make our living, but because it’s the start of a very familiar 178 miles of roadway.

From 2012 to 2019 I was privileged to work for the Texas Plains Trail Region, the heritage tourism program of the Texas Historical Commission for the 52 counties of the Plains and Panhandle. It was a mighty cool gig. Promoting economic development and historic preservation in places as far-flung as Benjamin, Canadian, Floydada, Guthrie, Lubbock, Plainview, Post, Slaton, and, yes, Spur—was a huge honor and great fun.

There came a season when preservation of Route 66 as a national historic treasure rose to the forefront of our program’s activism. Legislation to fund the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program had hit a snag, and preservationists from Illinois to California joined forces to document the economic and cultural justification for keeping the money flowing.

The looming Route 66 centennial, in 2026, was not that far off. A tourism bonanza awaited those communities that could restore and preserve historic gas stations, diners, bridges, patches of roadway, and bits of roadside kitsch, and persuade their highway departments to allow brown-and-white “historic route” waymarking signage bearing the “66” shield.

And in Texas, every mile of the state’s Route 66 legacy lay in our region.

From the Devil’s Rope/Route 66 Museum in McLean (housed in a former brassiere-making factory) to the Cadillac Ranch west of Amarillo, to the midpoint of the Route in tiny Adrian, supporters banded together. An inventory of assets was made. They included the desolate Jericho Gap stretch of old road from Alanreed to Groom through Donley County, never paved; the well-preserved treasure of commercial buildings in Amarillo’s Georgia-to-Western historic district; and the motor courts of Vega, long left to disuse and desolation on the windy high plains.

They also included a unique icon of Route 66 architecture that’s inspired imaginations for decades: the U-Drop Inn/Tower Conoco Station in Shamrock.

Today, the U-Drop brings countless drivers and dollars through this community of fewer than 2,000 souls in Wheeler County. It’s not a prosperous county; oil and gas, and agriculture, are the primary employers, after the local hospital.

It wasn’t a particularly prosperous place in 1936, either, when travelers from points east and west on Route 66 arrived in Shamrock with empty gas tanks and empty stomachs. But a gas-station owner, Tindall, recognized the prospect of increasing automobile traffic at the crossroads of two U.S. highways. A friend used a nail to sketch out an art-deco design in the dirt. When built—including a café and plans for a retail store—it was called by newspapers “the most up-to-date edifice of its kind on U.S. Highway 66 between Oklahoma City and Amarillo.”

Like so many Route 66 inspirations, in due time the structure, with its lime-green neon tubing and distinctive tulip-shaped tower, fell into decline and receivership, prompted primarily by the diversion of traffic to the nearly parallel Interstate 40.

I had first dropped in at the U-Drop twenty-one years ago, in early July 2003.

The New York Times regional newspaper for which I was writing my way across the country was the Wilmington (N.C.) Star-News, eastern terminus of I-40.

I’d happened into the station as finishing touches were being put in place ahead of its grand reopening.

“Route 66 was still a dirt road here when the U-Drop Inn was built,” said then Chamber of Commerce president David Rushing. The inn would soon reopen as an official Texas rest area and an information office for Shamrock.

The route through Shamrock wasn’t exactly bustling on that scorching July afternoon, though. Dolores Hibdon, secretary for an auto-towing outfit down the street, described to me the old highway back when her family traveled frequently between California and Oklahoma. “I remember spending the night in Shamrock,” she said, pointing westward up the road toward one of the vacant mom-and-pop motels.

“All of that ended when I-40 came through,” she pronounced with a sweep-



MIDPOINT At Adrian, Texas—23 miles from the New Mexico state line—Route 66 through-travelers from either direction are midway through their journey. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 10 | THE TEXAS SPUR

ing gesture. “They murdered the Mother Road.”

Happily for Shamrock, the U-Drop Inn and other restoration projects—plus an enormous boost from the “Cars” movie, which echoed its design in the fictional Ramone’s House of Body Art—have brought fame and fortune back to the town, to some degree.

If you’re reading this in one of our West Texas newspapers, make a drive up to Shamrock and look around for yourself one Saturday. Tell Amazing Hazel, greeter at the U-Drop, hi for me.

Past the icons of Texas’ Panhandle ranching country, including the straight-and-narrow giant cross and the leaning water tower at Groom, the rising framework of the next Buc-ee’s across from Amarillo’s Texas Travel Information Center, and the enticements of the Big Texan Steak Ranch’s 72-Ounce Steak Challenge, we’re eager to abandon necessary portions of I-40 once more for the Mother Road.

Its own mother, at least within the aforementioned mile-long U.S. Route 66-Sixth Street Historic District in Amarillo, is a petite bundle of energy who drives a bright-yellow MG roadster dubbed “The Yellow Imposter.”

Dora Meroney began championing Route 66 in the late 1990s, when she and her mother opened an antiques store in the family home, a brick bungalow situated directly on the Route.

“You have to make your street look nice, and make sure it has something visitors want to see when they get here,” Meroney had told me for a magazine piece in 2018.

Meroney practices what she preaches: whenever visitors stop by, as they do daily from around the globe, they’re invited to have their likeness posted to the shop’s Facebook, with Texas Ivy’s Route 66 shield as a backdrop.

Meroney wasn’t in her shop the day we made our own return to her block of Route 66. But the historic district was bustling—jam-packed on a Saturday with diners, bookshop patrons, sidewalk strollers, antiques hunters, bikers, buskers, curiosity-seekers.

At the western end of the mile stands the completed project Meroney and her buddies brought to fruition just last year. The enormous blue water tower at 6th and Western boasts a brand-new coat of paint—and an Amarillo Route 66 shield. The landmark beckons, drawing traffic off the thoroughfares and onto this stretch of the Route unparalleled for its shoulder-to-shoulder historic structures and its cadre of shopkeepers and supporters.

It’s too dang hot to even think about trudging, spray paint can in hand, out to the pasture-planted array of rusted autos known as the Cadillac Ranch, just west of Amarillo. We’ve done it dozens of times before, anyway. Yet here it is a hundred degrees at noon, and the I-40 access road is lined for a hundred yards in either direction with visitors’ vehicles.

So instead we speed ahead via the Interstate to a place where desert awaits the faithful. If it feels like cheating, well, we’re no strangers to every driveable mile that parallels this stretch (I have documented actual mileposts, in all seasons). We rejoin the old pavement at Vega, where

2024 Community Calendar
Community Services and Organizations

SPUR VISITOR CENTER, 101 Hill Street at Burlington Avenue, is operated by the Spur Area Chamber of Commerce and open during regular hours Tuesday–Saturday. Visitors seeking information on the area may email spurchamber@gmail.com or call (806) 271-3097.

THE SPUR AREA FOOD BANK serves families throughout Dickens County. The Food Bank is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating via private donations and welcomes donations to this community work. Donations are tax-deductible and are accepted directly into the Food Bank’s account at Spur Security Bank or at 612 Burlington Ave. The Spur Area Food Kitchen Inc. does not discriminate due to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

THE KENT COUNTY LIBRARY, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton, is open for patron services Monday–Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Library patrons may also check out e-books and audiobooks on the Libby app for free with their library card. For information call (806) 237-3287 or “like” Kent County Library on Facebook.

THE KENT COUNTY SENIOR NUTRITION CENTER, 156 W. 4th St., Jayton, is open Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A lunch meal is served at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a nominal cost, and is also available for carry-out. For information call (806) 237-3288.

THE SPUR-DICKENS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 403 E. Hill St., is open Monday–Thursday, noon–5 p.m., and extended hours on the first Monday of each month until 7 p.m. Call (806) 271-3714 for questions. Free WiFi (password spurlib2017) is available inside and from the parking lot. Also contact the library for inquiries regarding the Spur Photography Club.

SPUR-DICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM, 327 Burlington Ave., Spur, is open April through October. For a tour please call a board member: Froney Morris, (806) 271-3577; Linda Swenson, (806) 271-3238; Woodie McArthur, (806) 271-4415; or Don Wright, (806) 271-4520.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER/SOUTH DICKENS, 210 Burlington Ave., provides a dine-in meal at noon Monday–Friday. The salad bar is available on Wednesdays. A donation of \$4 is suggested for ages 60 and older, with an \$8 donation for those younger than 60. For more information call (806) 271-4472.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER/NORTH DICKENS, 511 Montgomery St., Dickens, provides a meal at noon Monday–Friday. A donation of \$5 is suggested. For more information call (806) 623-5520.

DICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM on Montgomery Avenue in Dickens is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the second and fourth Saturdays monthly. For a special viewing or other hours please call Ruby Combs at (806) 269-6215 or Bron Combs at (806) 294-5302.

KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at noon at the Kent County Community Center, 156 4th St., Jayton. Lunch is served at a cost of \$10 per person; please RSVP to Daryl Ham at (806) 269-1179.

SPUR ART GUILD Open painting day every third Monday at the Spur Senior Citizens Center, 201 Burlington Ave., Spur.

Public and Civic Meetings Coming Up

- Please let us know of any corrections: News@thetexasspur.com
- KENT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Aug. 26, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton, (806) 237-3373
 - KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB** Monday, Aug. 26, noon, Community Center, 156 W. 4th, Jayton
 - JAYTON-GIRARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** will have its special public board meeting to discuss the tax rate/budget, Monday, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m., R.N. Pierce Learning Center, Board Room.
 - SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., school administration office, 800 Williams Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3272
 - DICKENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 201-US 82, Dickens, (806) 623-5532
 - KENT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT** Monday, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, 9 a.m., County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton, (806) 237-3373
 - KENT COUNTY LIONS CLUB** Monday, Sept. 9 and Sept. 23, noon, Community Center, 156 W. 4th, Jayton
 - PATTON SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Sept. 9, 1261 E. FM 193, Afton, (806) 689-2220
 - ANDREW KENT MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4:30 p.m., District office at Kent County Courthouse, 101 Main St., Jayton
 - SPUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** Monday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m., Community Center, 101 E. Hill St., Spur, (806) 271-3097
 - WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m., District office at White River Lake
 - CITY OF SPUR CITY COUNCIL** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m., City Hall, 402 N. Burlington Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3316
 - JAYTON-GIRARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m., school board room, 700 Madison Ave., Jayton, (806) 237-2991
 - SPUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** board meeting, Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., school administration office, 800 Williams Ave., Spur, (806) 271-3272

CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Heat-related deaths in Texas likely undercounted

AUSTIN— As Texans endure the dog days of summer, experts say deaths related to heat in Texas and nationwide are likely undercounted, the Texas Standard reported.

With climate change causing warmer days and nights, last year was the hottest on record in Texas. Though this summer has not been quite as brutal, those working outside are still at considerable risk.

In 2023, 365 people in Texas died directly from heat, and heat was named a contributing factor in another 197 deaths. Accounting for heat’s role in a death is challenging, however.

The health impacts (of heat) are a little bit more subtle,” said cardiologist Sameed Khatana, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. “They can be delayed. And trying to tease apart whether a death or an adverse health effect occurred due to the temperature is quite challenging.”

Heat has been called “the most dangerous phenomenon that workers face,” according to the Texas Standard story.

OVERCROWDING, UNDER-STAFFING FORCE JAILS TO MOVE INMATES.

Jails both large and small are struggling to properly house incarcerated people, and millions in tax dollars are being spent to transport inmates to other jails, sometimes in other states, The Texas Tribune reported.

The number of Texas inmates housed outside



the county where they were arrested more than doubled from 2019 to 2024, from 2,078 to 4,358. In June 2024, 41% of Texas county jails housed inmates elsewhere, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

“Counties are having to think outside the box,” said Ricky Armstrong, assistant director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. “We know there are some counties housing people out of state. It’s not something we recommend or encourage, but we see that as a necessary evil.”

Among the factors increasing the number of inmates held elsewhere: a law limiting who can be released from jail while awaiting trial; an overburdened mental health system; and a difficulty in finding jailers.

While law enforcement officials advocate for increased jail space to ease the problem, civil rights advocates and defense attorneys say the state should invest more in mental health services and alternatives to jail.

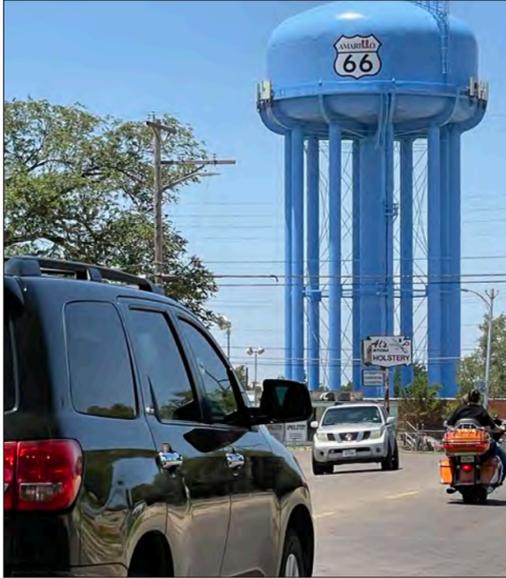
See CAPITAL, page 8

See ROUTE 66, page 10

SPOTLIGHT ON ROUTE 66 RAMBLE, PART 6, TEXAS



THE U-DROP INN / CONOCO TOWER welcomes visitors once again from all over the world, after restoration in 2003. After dark its green and pink neon lights are a photographer's delight; here, at midday in July, the bleached-out sky required Photoshopping. | THE TEXAS SPUR



AMARILLO'S WATER TOWER guides drivers to the mile-long historic retail district between Georgia and Western. | THE TEXAS SPUR



INTREPID TRAVELERS seeking out original, unpaved alignments of Route 66 over the Jericho Gap in Donley County will require detailed maps to avoid private property—and treacherous mud, which wasn't a problem in July 2024. | THE TEXAS SPUR



INTERSTATE 40 is the four-lane divided highway that supplanted Route 66 starting at Oklahoma City, to the Interstate's end at Barstow, California. | THE TEXAS SPUR

101st Annual Motley-Dickens Counties

Os Old Settlers Os

Reunion & Rodeo

Roaring Springs, Texas

August 22, 23 & 24, 2024

<p>THURSDAY Free Admission All Day</p> <p>Motley & Dickens Counties Arena Events: Rain or Shine! Books Open at 1:30PM Events Start at 3:00PM</p> <p>County Cutting Entry Fee \$175</p> <p>Open Cutting Entry Fee \$250 \$300 Added Money</p> <p>Cutters, Please Call In on Tuesday, Aug 20 to Krista 575-390-3923</p> <p>Flag Races 6 Years & Under Entry Fee \$10 7 Years to 12 Years- \$15</p> <p>Open Age Barrel Race Entry Fee \$25 BUCKLE ONLY</p> <p>MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES TEAM ROPING 12 SLIDE Pick 1 and Draw 2 OR Draw All 3 \$150/Roper 4 Steer Avg. Prog After 1 Extra Draw \$40 each</p> <p>Books will close 30 minutes before start time. Need to be entered before the books close.</p> <p>NO LATE ENTRIES</p>	<p>FRIDAY 2 & Under: Free 3-12 Years: \$10 13-64 Years: \$20 65+ Years: \$15</p> <p>RHAA Show Pre-Entries Posted Online Office Opens at 8AM Show Starts at 9AM</p> <p>CLASS ORDER: Senior \$200 Junior \$200 Ranch Hand \$200 Cowboy \$200 Wrangler \$200 NBDBD \$175 Senior Youth \$150 Junior Youth \$150</p> <p>Contact: Kelli Morgan 580-812-2839</p>	<p>SATURDAY 2 & Under: Free 3-12 Years: \$10 13-64 Years: \$20 65+ Years: \$15</p> <p>Parade Downtown- 10AM Parade Awards Immediately Following at the Roaring Springs Community Center</p> <p>Goat Roping at Rodeo Grounds Books Open at 10AM 0-4 yrs / 5-9 yrs / 10-12 yrs</p> <p>Memorial Service & Business Meeting After the Parade awards, at the Roaring Springs Community Center</p> <p>Washer Pitching Contest- 1PM Kid's Snapping Turtle Race- 2PM \$25 to the Winner of Each Division 0-4 yrs / 5-9 yrs / 10-12 yrs</p> <p>Junior WRCA Rodeo- 2PM</p>
<p>Invitational WRCA Ranch Rodeo FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS AT 6PM Contact: Rodeo President Matthew Cruse 806-231-0495 OR Rodeo Secretary Krista Francis 575-390-3923 / kristajfrancis@gmail.com 3 LAZY S RODEO COMPANY 5 Members of the Winning Team will receive Awards + Four Monies Paid TOP HAND Saddle Donated by Will Burgess and GH Blades TOP HORSE will receive a Bit</p>		
<p>Invitational YOUTH WRCA Ranch Rodeo 2:00 PM on Saturday Same Contact Info as Above</p>		
<p>THE OS BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO EVENTS</p>		
<p>JUNIOR FLAG RACE- FRIDAY & SATURDAY DURING THE RODEO 12 years & Younger as of that day \$20 Entry Fee 1 Buckle Awarded to Winner of Weekend Limited to 10 per night</p> <p>SHETLAND BRONC RIDING- FRIDAY & SATURDAY DURING THE RODEO 12 years & Younger as of that day \$75 Entry Fee 1 Buckle Awarded to Winner of Weekend Limited to 6 per night</p> <p>MUTTON BUSTING- FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS 12 years & Younger as of that day \$20 Entry Fee 1 Buckle Awarded to Winner of Weekend Call Krista 575-390-3923 on Monday, August 19 at 8AM to get entered. There will be a qualifying long round at 5PM each night and the top ten longest rides will qualify to ride during the WRCA's Rodeo.</p>		
<p>Old Timer's Dance Included with Gate Admission Friday & Saturday Chad Maines & Friends 5:00-7:00 PM SPONSORED BY SINGIN R RANCH</p>	<p>Dances Included with Gate Admission Friday: Jake Hooker & The Outsiders 9:30PM-? Saturday: Trent Wilmon 9:30PM-?</p>	<p>Food Trucks, Shopping + More! Thursday starting at 2PM Friday and Saturday starting at 9AM</p>
<p>Rafter J Exceptional Rodeo + Bulls Our exciting children's entertainment this year is the traveling petting zoo, mechanical bull and exotic animal lessons by Rafter J's Team. SPONSORED BY: Plains Land Bank</p>		
<p>Drawing for Handmade Matt Humphreys & Clint Martin Prizes will be held on Saturday During the Rodeo. 1st Place- Spurs 2nd Place- Ranger Buckle Set 3rd Place- Trinket Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Auction Pieces will be available during the Rodeo on Saturday.</p>		



THE SLUG BUG RANCH newly installed at the Big Texan RV Park east of Amarillo bookends the Cadillac Ranch on the west. | THE TEXAS SPUR



BRENDA AND BRENNEN talk turkey about Route 66 travel at her Midpoint Café in Adrian, Texas. | THE TEXAS SPUR

ROUTE 66 FROM PAGE 2

I'm pleased to see how the Milburn-Price Culture Museum has come along since its start in 2015, and that Rooster's is still serving up calf fries (hey, someone's got to).

But the delicacy for which people travel half the distance of the Route is the pie at the Midpoint Café. Tiny Adrian doubles its population daily with diners desirous of this delicacy, and its other deli delights.

Kay and I select from

among the rustic-crust deserts. Even at midafternoon, the converted gas station is packed, with owner Brenda Hammit hustling about like a mother hen tending to a flock. Though she didn't invent the Ugly Crust Pie (credit former owner Fran Houser with that innovation), she carries on the tradition with gusto.

Among the satisfied patrons today are Route Magazine publisher Brennen Matthews and his family, on their own sightseeing tour. They drive from their Toronto hometown across the U.S. each summer, he said, and they've found a niche in publishing the slick color book that we've spotted on the welcome-counter stand here and all across our journey.

We see he's got his own interviews to conduct, and we bid them a fond farewell. Everyone is out making new memories and following the myriad old stories along this relict route.

"Maybe we'll catch up with you along the way!"

Outside in the searing heat, it's almost—almost—possible to imagine the cool things and cooler weather that might await just over the rise. New Mexico's Blue Hole, Tucumcari neon, mountains and mesas. We can almost smell California from here.

Sugar-sated, we snap a quick pic at the midpoint line across the highway, jump back into the black pickup.

Halfway. Half the story told, half to go.

JAYTON GRIDIRON

21st Annual CLASSIC 2024

Thursday, August 29th
*Crowell vs McLean 6:00 PM
*Jayton vs Westbrook 8:00 PM

Friday, August 30th
*Borden County vs Valley 6:00PM
*Knox City vs Klondike 8:00 PM

Saturday, August 31st
*Bryson vs Ira 3:00PM
*Garden City vs Nazareth 5:30PM
*Highland vs Cherokee 8:00PM

*Home team