



The Matney Brothers -- Jonathan, Russ, Keith and Ken entertain their fans at First Baptist Church in Buffalo. *Sherry's Shots*

Whole lot of toe tapping going on

Is Elvis in the house?

By Sherry Matney

The Family Life Center at First Baptist Church Buffalo had a lot of toe tappin' going on last Saturday night. The Matney Brothers, a singing group from Scottsdale, Arizona, were on hand to entertain their audience at FBC. Elvis made a quick appearance to begin the evening.

Three of the Matney Brothers are sons of Paul and Sherry Matney and one is a grandson. The brothers grew up in Garland and enjoyed singing with their family and friends. About twenty years ago the original brothers, Keith, Russ and Ken began singing together whenever someone was willing to listen. Then Russ was transferred to Phoenix and broke up the group.

Keith is a music minister and he and his family followed Russ to Arizona within a year when he took a position at The First Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale. Then last year circumstances were such that the youngest brother, Ken, moved to Arizona to start his own business.

The result is the three are back together and have the opportunity to sing again.

Most of the songs they have done in the past were for trios but their real love is Southern Gospel. The problem there is that best and most energetic Southern Gospel music is quartet.

It just so happens that Keith's oldest son, Jon, is a great singer who attended college on a full voice scholarship. Although he wasn't really into Southern Gospel he loved singing with his dad and uncles so the group decided to become official. They named themselves "The Matney Brothers" and explained that Jon is a Matney Brother -- just one from another mother.

The next step was to find someone to produce a CD so they found Billy Smiley who has done several of the Gaither Band CDs. The name of the CD is Gospel Ship and features that old traditional gospel song. Then, in this techy world, they decided to create a web site, which is www.matneybrothers.com.

The group made its debut tour at several churches in Texas last week with one of them being FBC Buffalo. Others were Crestview Baptist in Georgetown, Liberty

Hill Baptist in Liberty Hill, First Baptist Brazoria and First Baptist Crosby.

The real concert began following Elvis' brief appearance. Most songs were fast and peppy and some were slow and serious, but all were heartfelt. The boys and their parents are extremely grateful to the community for supporting this ministry.

EDS board hears citizen's request for open meetings

by Vanessa Goodwyn

All board members were present for the July meeting of the Board of ESD #4, with the exception of Joel Echols.

After opening ceremonies, the Board approved the minutes of the previous meetings and accepted the Treasurer's report as presented by Vera Barnett. A \$22,000 check was written to Legacy EMS for their services in June, leaving a balance of \$500 in the account.

Attorney Brian Gibson was present and the Board discussed and unanimously voted to enter into a contract agreement with Gibson, noting his experience with municipalities. The contract included an 18-month deferment to allow the taxing district to begin to collect funds.

The Board briefly discussed the budget for FY 2009-2010. Current expenses include \$22,000 per month for the ambulance service (\$264,000/year), before bids for that service. Any decision on the budget was tabled until next month.

The Board next discussed their request for bids for am-

balance services, determining they will contract for EMS services from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010 for a continuing contract for three years with opt out provisions.

They will be advertised in both local papers. They will put out for bids July 10th, to be due back August 3rd at 3:00 p.m. at President Joey Rodell's R-Construction office. The bids will be opened in a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. and each bidder will be given time for a five-minute presentation. The Board will narrow the candidates down and announce their top three choices on August 13th, then award the contract at a special meeting on August 27th.

The ESD Board next adopted the by-laws presented at a previous meeting.

Monty Cartwright, Operations Captain with Legacy EMS, gave the June report. The ambulance service responded to 32 calls, two fire standbys, and two flights, resulting in 20 persons being transported. The response time averaged 9.24 minutes, but 16% were over twenty minutes. Cartwright prom-

ised to make adjustments to bring that number down. The service has moved into new quarters at the old Palestine Regional Ambulance station and Cartwright stated, "We're well accommodated." He also pointed out that Legacy has changed out a higher-mileage unit (100K+ miles) with a newer one, and a brand new unit is scheduled to be based here in the next two weeks.

The Board approved the report as well as Legacy's request for payment for July.

Finally, during an opportunity for public comments, Johnny Wilson asked that "stuff like attorney's fees and interest expenses be included in the budget", and Rodell promised that they would. Wilson also asked that decisions made on the proposals NOT be made in executive sessions, concluding, "If you've got something to say, I'd like to hear it." Attorney Gibson agreed that it probably has to be done in open session.

The ESD Board's next meeting will be August 3.

County gets high marks in annual audit

by Vanessa Goodwyn

The Leon County Commissioners met in regular session on July 13th with a full gallery in attendance.

Topping the agenda, Michael Brooks, senior auditor with Belt, Harris & Associates, presented the annual audit for the fiscal year 2008. He began by commending County Auditor Susan Pugh and her staff for their cooperation. In his general overview, Brooks stated that his firm gave the Leon County an "unqualified opinion" -- the highest assurance that the county's finances are being handled correctly. The ending fund balance of approximately \$3.5 Million was

described as "well over the recommended 30% of annual expenditures" which Brooks noted was "a sign of a healthy year -- a good fiscal year".

It was the commissioners' first opportunity to look over the audit, so they accepted the report for further review and tabled any action.

Colonel James Wallace offered an update on the Leon County Health Center. He reported that the Telehealth program is growing and served 34 patients in June, stating, "There are people in need of that counsel and that program will continue." The LHSC is still in need of drivers, but they are able to meet critical needs with the current staff.

Ralston Brumley, on behalf of the American Legion, pointed out that the American flags used around the courthouse square during celebrations are getting pretty worn. He requested that the county purchase new ones and the commissioners committed \$3000 for that purchase.

The commissioners authorized Johnny Franks to submit a letter to Governor Perry to have Leon County declared a disaster area due to the severe drought conditions in recent months. Franks reminded the court, "This will make funds available through USDA just for the people who paid for the insurance."

The Court next considered and renewed the county's

Indigent Health Care contract with BVCOG to administer paperwork and collect fees. There was no change in last year's contract price of \$17,500.

The commissioners approved a resolution for an interim study of the undervaluation of local oil and gas properties. Newly-enacted legislation will cost Leon County approximately \$1.5M in tax revenue and Judge Ryder predicted, "It will possibly be four years before this thing is rectified." The goal of the resolution is to make the State legislators aware of how their ruling is going to affect our counties and schools. "They don't realize the vastness of what they're done to the counties," Judge Ryder concluded. Commissioner Dean Player added, "It's going to impact the residents of Leon County on a daily basis

-- taking \$1.5 M out of our budget is not a small deal -- it is very significant."

The increase in Spanish-speaking persons in the county's various courts has prompted the commissioners to consider the need to provide a certified interpreter during county court proceedings. The matter was tabled to allow more review.

The county's new pipeline agreement has been brought under contestation by the Attorney General's office, which has stated that Leon County cannot continue to charge their current fee of \$3000. The matter was tabled with no decision made.

The Commissioners and Judge Ryder focused their attention on the 2010 budget in a special meeting later on Monday and additional budget meetings were scheduled for July 14 and 15 at 1:30.

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<p>'09 Ford Ranger XL Stk#2640</p> <p>MSRP18,405 PERF Disc1095 MFG Rebate ..2500 DTFD Rebate ..1500</p> <p>\$13,310</p>		<p>'09 Ford F150 XLT Reg Cab Stk#2660</p> <p>MSRP26,855 PERF Disc1800 MFG Rebate ..2000 DTFD Rebate ..1500</p> <p>\$21,555</p>
<p>'09 Ford F150 Supercab XLT Stk#2664</p> <p>MSRP29,070 PERF Disc2095 MFG Rebate ..1500 DTFD Rebate ..1500 FCBC1000 Owner Loyalty .1000</p> <p>\$21,975</p>	<p>'09 Ford F-250 Crew 4x4 Lariat Pkg Stk#2990</p> <p>MSRP47,340 PERF Disc4340 MFG Rebate ..2000 DTFD Rebate ..1500 Owner Loyalty .1000</p> <p>\$38,500</p>	<p>'09 Ford F150 CrewCab XLT Stk#2651</p> <p>MSRP34,745 PERF Disc2900 MFG Rebate ..2500 DTFD Rebate ..1500 FCBC1000 Owner Loyalty .1000</p> <p>\$25,845</p>

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- Stk#PP827 '07 Ford F150 RegCab XL.....\$11,995
- Stk#2662B '05 Chevy Tahoe Z71 4x4.....\$13,995
- Stk#R748B '07 Ford Fusion SE.....\$10,995
- Stk#2673A '07 Ford Focus SES.....\$8,995
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