

# Motley County Tribune

50¢



God Bless  
America!

"VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS"



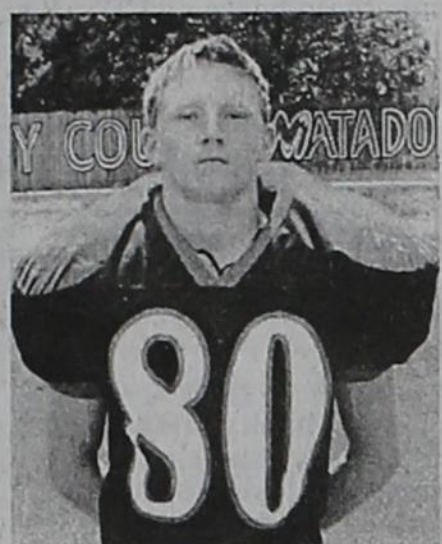
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004

ESTABLISHED 1891

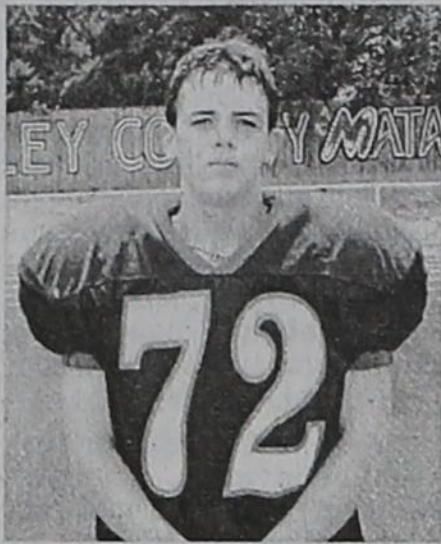
ISSUE NO. 2



LORENZO SALAZAR  
SENIOR  
1ST TEAM DEFENSE



QUINTEN ROSE  
SENIOR  
2ND TEAM OFFENSE



BRANDON GRESSETT  
SOPHOMORE  
2ND TEAM OFFENSE



SEAGRAM SIMS  
JUNIOR  
2ND TEAM OFFENSE

## Nine MC Matadors receive All-District football honors

Nine Motley County Matadors received All District honors for District 2 Football. Senior

Lorenzo Salazar was named to the first team, defense, cornerback.

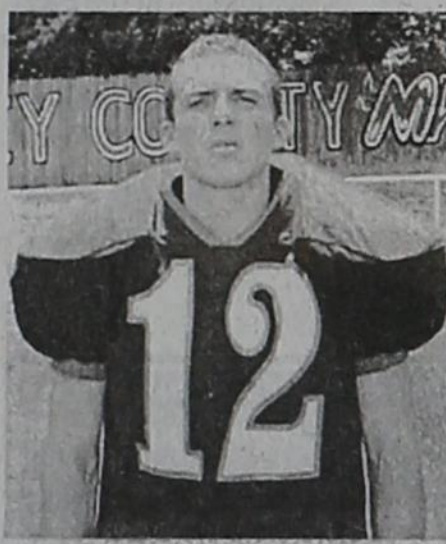
Named to the second team, offense, were Senior, Quinten Rose, receiver; Junior, Seagram Sims, running back; and Sophomore, Brandon Gressett, punter.

Receiving honorable mention were Junior, Clay Cooper, quarterback; Sophomore, Chance Bingham, quarterback;

Junior, Matt Henzler, defensive back; Sophomore, Colton Russell, noseguard; and Sophomore, Levi Buckner, defensive back.

Motley County is among six schools in six-man District 2 football. Other teams in the district include Patton Springs, Spur, New Home, Southland and Wilson.

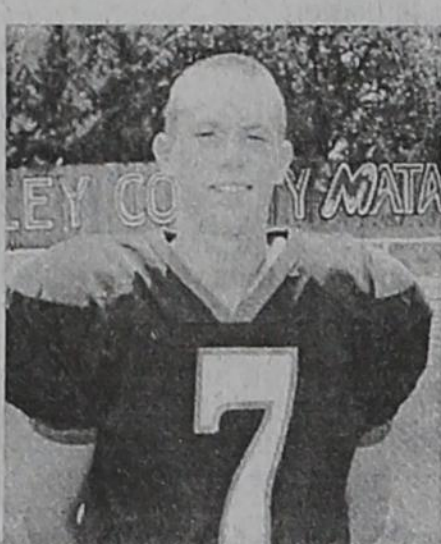
Coach Rick Cooper extends congratulations to these athletes.



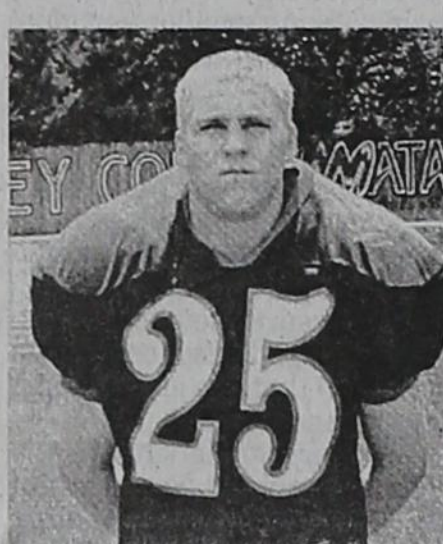
LEVI BUCKNER  
SOPHOMORE  
HONORABLE MENTION



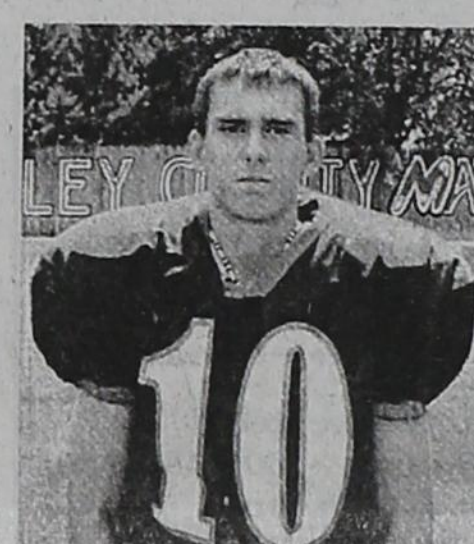
MATT HENZLER  
JUNIOR  
HONORABLE MENTION



CLAY COOPER  
JUNIOR  
HONORABLE MENTION



COLTON RUSSELL  
SOPHOMORE  
HONORABLE MENTION



CHANCE BINGHAM  
SOPHOMORE  
HONORABLE MENTION

## 2003 Headlines in Review

This week we continue with a look back at the headlines making news in Motley County in 2003.

**July 17**  
Mayor Williams resigns  
Matador Mayor, Rodney Williams submitted his letter of resignation when the City Council met in their regular session Thursday, July 10.

**July 24**  
Ranch Rodeo spurs new interest in Old Settlers  
Annual Chamber Banquet set of August 16  
MC Cheerleaders to sponsor cheer camp

**July 31**  
FFA members receive State awards at annual convention  
Chamber Banquet will feature Nostalgia theme  
High school registration August 4

**August 7**  
16 teams line up for Old Settlers Ranch Rodeo  
Immunizations must be up to date for beginning of the new school year

**August 14**  
Matadors begin 2003 season with 2-a-day workouts  
Motley County ISD classes will begin Monday, August 18  
2003 West Nile Outbreak ahead of 2002

**August 21**  
Man, Women and Business of the Year named at Annual Chamber Banquet  
2003 Business of the Year, New to You; 2003 Woman of the Year, Dinah Young; and 2003 Man of the Year, Alex Crowder.  
Mobile Post Office will be set up at Matador Ranch  
Matador cowboys will meet for annual reunion with historical celebration

**August 28**  
Matador Cattle Company celebrates 50 years of ownership  
State Rep. Rick Hardcastle will speak at Matador Ranch celebration  
Will the Old Settlers Tabernacle survive another year?

**September 4**  
80th Annual Old Settlers Reunion draws hundreds to Roaring Springs

**Large crowd attends Matador Ranch 50th Anniversary celebration**  
Over 600 registered at the 50th Anniversary of the Matador Ranch held at the Matador headquarters.  
Tongue River Ranch gathers herd of awards at Roaring Springs rodeo

**September 11**  
Voters urged to say yes to Proposition 12  
Motley County August rainfall totals still below normal for year  
Kid Camp receives donation  
School Board cuts 10% from budget

**September 18**  
MC Matadors victorious over Spur for first home game win  
The Healing Field  
3,412 American flags were sat out at Kastman Park in Lubbock as a memorial tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

**September 25**  
Matadors get big win over Guthrie 54-8  
Motley County graduated found guilty of manslaughter  
Greenbelt District FFA meeting hosted by MCISD  
Motley County FCA hosts area workshop

**October 2**  
New Sign  
This new road sign, "Frank Mitchell Memorial Loop, is one of two recently erected at the north and south entrance to Roaring Springs.  
Local Solidier to come home for R&R Leave  
Local solidier Sgt. Robert Fiskis scheduled to come home this weekend. He has been stationed in Iraq since April."

**October 9**  
Motley County ISD awarded Reading First Grant  
Rainfall locations affecting status of Motley County's cotton crops  
Matadors run over New Home Leopards for 52-0 half-time win

**October 16**  
Motley County qualifies for state tax credit  
2003 Homecoming to be celebrated this weekend

**October 23**  
2003 Homecoming Queen  
Veronica Mendoza was crowned as the 2003 Motley County Homecoming Queen.  
Motley County ISD earns state's highest recognition  
Motley County ISD school district officials announced that the district received a rating of "superior achievement."  
School Attendance Rate at 97%  
American Legion to fight for Pledge

**October 30**  
First Bale of Cotton Ginned  
Gary Ford, of Roaring Springs brought in the first bale of cotton ginned in Motley County for 2003.  
Motley County ISD lands high financial rating  
November 6  
Roaring Springs resident will be honored on 100th birthday  
Mrs. Vera Mitchell will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 8, with a party in Roaring Springs.  
Local Clubs will host annual Christmas Bazaars  
Motley County Fire Department raises money for new fire truck

**November 13**  
Frank Mitchell Memorial Loop dedicated in special ceremony  
The city of Roaring Springs officially dedicated the Frank Mitchell Memorial Loop, Tuesday, November 11.  
Matador Volunteer Fire Department awarded grant  
Matador Volunteer Fire Department was one of eleven communities in Texas which recently received a grant through the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.  
Motley County Veteran's Honored  
The Motley County veterans were honored with a special program sponsored by the Motley County ISD student council.  
"Veterans' Oral History Project announced." Student council members, assisted by American Legion or Auxiliary members and the technology staff at the school will interview every willing veteran in Motley County to obtain an oral history of their

military service.

**November 20**  
Churches will come together for Thanksgiving Community Service  
Santa Claus is coming to town! Late Night Shopping in Matador  
Nationwide Seat Belt Crack down begins  
November 27  
Quitaque to host annual Caprock County Christmas  
Motley County Student Receives Free Computer  
Twelve Motley County ISD seniors attended the Career Expo by South Plains Tech Prep. Out of almost 3,000 name one of them selected was Angie Marvel from Motley County ISD.

**December 4**  
Historic building being restored  
The historic First National Bank building in downtown Matador is in the process of being restored. Richard and Melea Knowles of Knowles-Taylor Cotton Co. Inc. are having the building restored and will move the company's offices to the location when completed.  
Motley County records first freeze November 23

**December 11**  
Motley County Ex-Students Association Seeking donations  
Dr. Clinton Burns, President of the Motley County Ex-student Association, has received a request from the Motley County Independent School District for assistance in purchasing a new stage curtain for the auditorium/gymnasium.  
Texas Hwy. 70 Association to sponsor 2nd Annual Christmas Lighting Contest  
Mail Call for Iraq

**December 18**  
Clean-up available to residents for old cars and scrap metal  
Danny McCaslan was present for open forum. He will be in Matador doing clean up of old cars and scrap metal for individuals and asked the council for property locations on the list of potential clean-up sites.  
Local Churches to hold Christmas Candlelight Services

## County races will be uncontested

There will be no contested races in the March 9, 2004 Primary election. With January 2 the last day to file for a place on the ballot, the following candidates have filed for re-election.  
Motley County Sheriff: James B. "Jim" Meador.  
Commissioner, Precinct 3:

Franklin Jameson.  
Commissioner, Precinct 1: Ronnie Davis.  
Motley County Tax Assessor/Collector: Elaine Hart.  
All candidates will be listed on the Democratic ballot.  
The General Election will be held in November.

## 2003 sixth consecutive year for below normal rainfall in Motley County

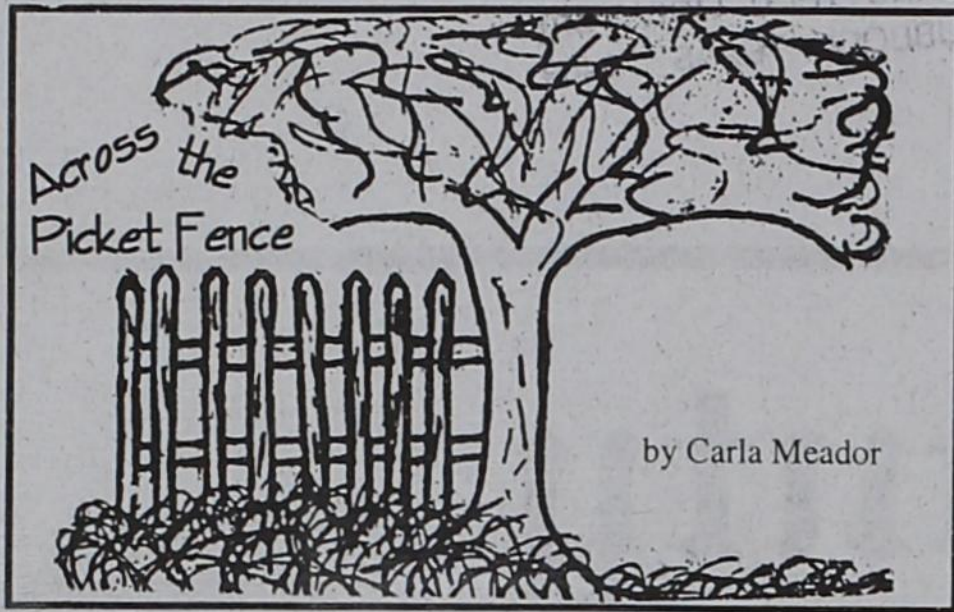
by Earlyne Jameson  
If not for the six and seven inch rains in June the total year end moisture in Motley County would not be as registered, because January, February, July and December monthly totals were zero moisture for some and limited rainfall for remainder of months.  
We are needing rain now in

the worst way on wheat, feed and pasture land and land that needs to be plowed since the cotton and feed harvest is complete. We have had our share of gusting winds throughout the year.  
However, cotton gins and farmers in the area were surprised by the better turn out than expected, so we are pleased with this report.

## Jury trial begins in sexual assault case

A jury trial began Monday, January 5, at the Motley County Courthouse, 110th Judicial District, in the Aggravated Sexual Assault case against Jeff Braselton of Roaring Springs. Braselton was indicted by Motley County Grand Jury in 2002

on two counts of aggravated sexual assault.  
Braselton is accused of sexually assaulting a minor child in Roaring Springs.  
Jeff Braselton is a 1980 graduate of Motley County High School.



I thought this story was good and knew my readers would also like it.

**Water Bearer**

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Be-

cause of my flaws, you have to do all of this work and you don't get full value from your efforts."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day as we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

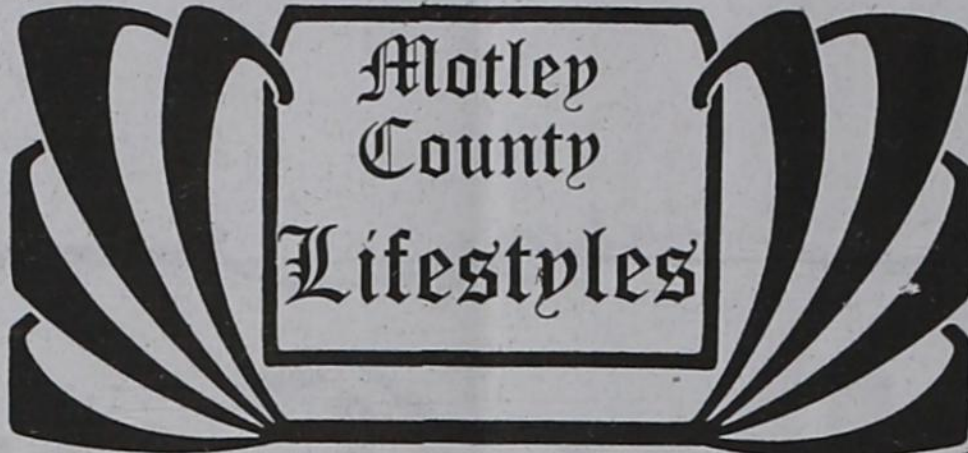
**The moral of the story:**

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them.

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life!

Blessings to all my cracked pot readers.



**Five Lifesavers for the New Year**

It's that time of year when people make resolutions. You know the vows: clean out the garage, keep in better touch with friends and family, save money.

But there are some health and fitness resolutions that could save your life, according to Texas Commissioner of Health Edurado Sanchez, M.D.

"If people would remember to do just five things, they could live longer, healthier lives, Sanchez said.

The five are: Eat smart; get fit; get shots; get checkups and screen; and don't smoke.

Each of these suggestions alone is good for anyone to consider, Sanchez said. But together they provide a solid plan to help a person get healthy and stay that way.

First, more than 60% of the people in Texas are overweight or obese. Preliminary analysis by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) suggests that overweight and obesity cost an estimated \$10.2 billion in 2001 in Texas.

Healthy benefits come, nutritionists say, if people eat five to nine servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Other good choices include eating whole grains; taking smaller portions; selecting lean meat, fish and poultry; and reducing or eliminating fat, fried foods, sugar and salt.

In addition to an improved immune system, people who eat smart may avoid or delay problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood) that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Next, are you having trouble getting moving? You are not alone. Urban sprawl means more time in the car for many, and busy schedules make getting fit a challenge.

Think about ways you can start slowly and build up activity level. Just 30 minutes of moderate to brisk exercise daily can strengthen your heart.

"Make it a family activity," Sanchez said. "Try fun runs, walks and other activities that can include family members of all ages.

Third, getting shots is something many adults don't think about; but pneumonia, one of the most serious infections for seniors, is easily prevented with a two-shot vaccine. While an influenza vaccine can't always completely cover all strains circulating, it does provide protection, and is especially important for those at risk of serious complications or death.

"Check with your health care provider about what shots are recommended and when," Sanchez said. "Most adults should get vaccinated against pneumonia and flu, especially those over age 65."

Or when is the last time you had a tetanus shot? The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends adults get a booster every 10 years.

Fourth on the list is getting checkups and screens. Many people don't visit a doctor until

a problem occurs. This procrastination can be deadly.

Pap smears, mammograms and colorectal exams can detect cancerous activity early when treatment is most effective. Tests for cholesterol, triglyceride levels and blood pressure, along with family history, can indicate if you are at risk for heart disease. People at risk of developing diabetes can prevent serious complications or death if the disease is diagnosed and managed.

And finally, it's been repeated often; but again, smoking is bad for your health. Tobacco use can lead to deadly diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema and stroke. When quitting, ask your doctor if nicotine replacement products are a good idea, get a friend to remind you of all the benefits of being smoke free, and be patient - many people quit several times before they kick the habit for good.

"Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change," Sanchez said. "You just may save your life."

**Tips for Eating Smart**

\* Reduce portion size. If you eat out, order smaller portions or divide your entree and take half home.

\* Drink fewer sodas. Over a year's time, one can of regular cola a day at 150 calories equals more than 15 pounds worth of calories.

\* Write down what you eat. You may be surprised by the incidental calories - a bag of chips here, some candy there, really add up.

\* Add fruit and vegetables. Substitute dried fruit for candy, add vegetables to soups, pasta, stir-fry dishes or casseroles.

\* Limit snack foods, foods high in fat or sugar and processed foods since they have some calories and fewer nutrients.

**Tips for getting fit**

\* Take a step in the right direction. Walking 10,000 steps a day (about five miles) helps to maintain a healthy weight. A pedometer will help you determine your steps.

\* Go it on foot. Take the stairs instead of elevators, park farther from your destination and walk.

Encourage your children to walk to school where feasible, walk or ride a bicycle for short trips instead of taking the car. It all adds up.

The more television a child watches, the more likely he or she is to be obese. Consider activities as a family such as a going to the zoo or park, playing catch or skating.

**Tips for quitting smoking**

\* For some people drinking coffee, driving or watching TV triggers a desire to smoke. Identify triggers for smoking and avoid or modify behavior.

\* Choose healthy alternatives such as drinking water, taking a walk, or going to the movies or library where smoking is not allowed.

\* Be patient, most people make several attempts before they are able to quit permanently.

\* Seek out a supportive friend or family member or call the American Cancer Society's Quitline at 1-877-937-7848 for help.



We thank Stan and Dorothy Hanesworth for the subscription to "Time Magazine" that they have given to the library. We know that our patrons will enjoy reading this magazine. And, while I am talking about magazines, did you know that you can check out magazines from the Motley County Library? Thanks to people like Stan and Dorothy, we have several to choose from.

Another gift subscription that the library receives is the Motley County Tribune. It is important for the library to have the local news and we thank Carla Meador for donating this wonderful newspaper to the library.

We appreciate the donation by D.A. McGuire in memory of Bill Koon. Donations such as these help keep the library's collection of books, videos and audios up-to-date.

New items in the library include three books on CD's. We thank John Sanford's The

Hanged Man's Song, featuring the computer antics of Sanford's character, Kidd. We also have the audio version of James Lee Burkes's Last Car to Elysian Fields, featuring Dave Robicheaux. The third CD is W.E.B Griffin's Honor Bound. The library offers these and many other audio books for you to check out and enjoy.

Also on the positive side, the boll weevil eradication program experienced area wide success.

We thank the National Weather Service Volunteers of Motley County for the monthly and total year and moisture reports.

Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs: Dec. 0.02; 2003 total 16.56 inches. Kelly Meyer, Matador: Dec. 0.04; 2003 total 13.06 inches. Jim Stockton, Whiteflat: Dec. 00; 2003 total 14.27 inches. Tommie Jo Cruse, Flomot: Dec. 00; 2003 total 16.11 inches. Betty Simpson, Northfield: Dec. 00; 2003 total 13.98 inches.

**NOTE OF THANKS**

Thanks to you all for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers, visits and food during and after my stay in the hospital.

Ellis Terry

Thank you for the calls, cards, food and prayers during my hospital stay and since my return home. A special thanks to the Ambulance team, Seven, Mindy, Tony and Sheila for your great work! Once again we realize how lucky we are to have such well trained EMT's. We greatly appreciate each of you!

God Bless,  
Jack and Katie Davis

It has been my privilege to serve our customers at the First State Bank of Matador for the last twenty years. During that time I have renewed old friendships and made many, many new friends. My thanks to all of you who have wished me well for my retirement. I will miss seeing everyone on a regular basis, but the memories I take with me will last for a lifetime.

Sincerely,  
Myrna Blasingame

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

John 3:16

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**Right Things for 2004**

In this new year of 2004 we will be faced with some decisions that have to be made. These will involve whether or not we should do or not do something. Or should we become involved? Usually a lot of things come into consideration as we make our decisions. There are times that it will require of us great courage not to do a thing as to do it. Here is a simple rule to follow:

It's always right to do right  
It's always wrong to do wrong  
It's never right to do wrong  
It's never wrong to do right

And

It's always right to do right even if no one is doing it  
It's always wrong to do wrong even if everyone is doing it  
There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

Now, as we face the new year of 2004, put that simple rule into practice. If it's right go ahead. If it's wrong don't do it. That way we will always be found doing the right thing. And that's right !!!

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

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

**SHOP AT HOME!**



THE NEWSPAPER:  
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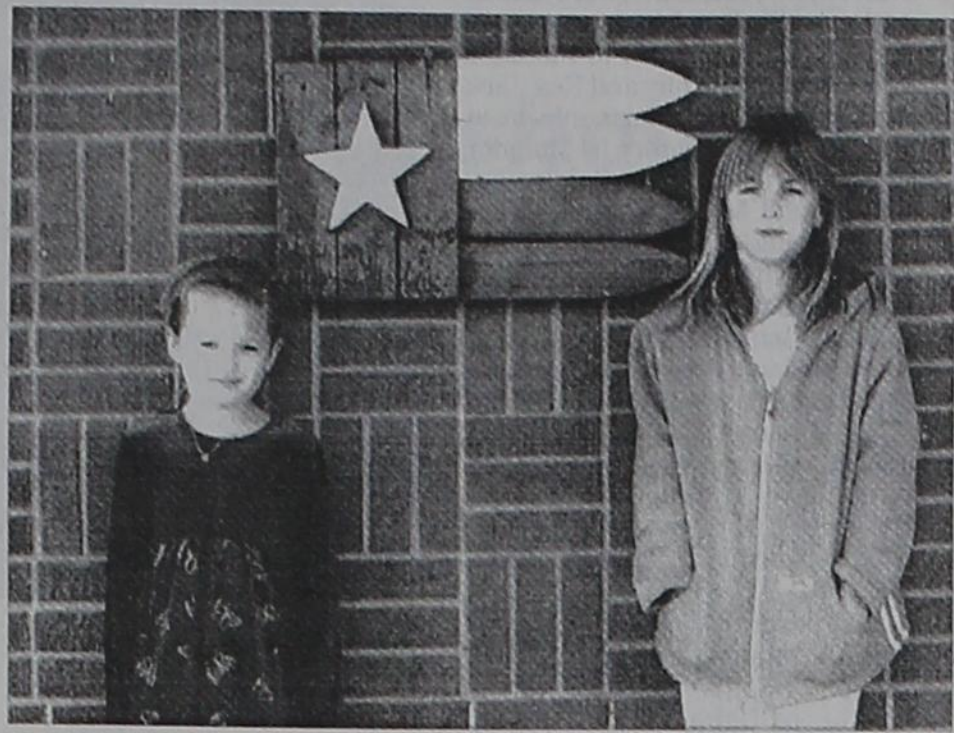
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# THE MATADOR

— SCHOOL NEWS & HAPPENINGS —



### Top Sales

Katie Barton, left, a member of the local Girl Scout Brownie Troop #724, and Kyla Simpson, a member of the Junior Troop #356, were top salesgirls in the recent Girl Scout nut sale. Katie is a first grader at Motley County ISD and the 6-year-old daughter of Bobby and Brooke Barton of Matador. Kyla is a fifth grader and the 10-year-old daughter of Terry and Tammy Simpson of Matador.

Mary Engelbreit books  
available at the  
**MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE**

BOOKS, OFFICE SUPPLIES, PRINTING, BUSINESS  
CARDS, BANNERS, PLAQUES & MUCH MORE  
**MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE**

## Winter Clearance Sale

Starts Jan. 7th

50% - 75% off

We will be closed  
until Jan. 7th

New To You

Downtown Matador



## New "Don't Mess With Texas" scholarship gives enterprising students a chance to letter in litter

As the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Don't Mess with Texas campaign heads into its 18th year, it's offering a unique scholarship opportunity to graduating high school seniors reared on its litter prevention message.

The Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship, sponsored by a donation from Dairy Queen, recognizes the achievements of high school seniors who have taken actions to prevent litter in their schools or communities. One \$3,000 scholarship and two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in the spring of 2004. Applications are due April 3, 2004, and are available through [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org) or Texas school guidance counselors.

### Who Is Eligible?

\* Any high school senior graduating spring 2004 who currently resides and attends school in Texas.

\* Seniors planning to further their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or university (public or private) in Texas.

### What Are the Requirements?

\* An essay of 300 to 350 words identifying a litter problem in the student's school or community and the action he or she took to address it.

\* Two letters of recommendations - one from a school-related source and the other from a non-school-related source.

\* A photocopy of the student's official high school transcript.

\* A completed Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship application.

The scholarship is TxDOT's latest effort to generate more youth involvement in the Don't Mess with Texas campaign. TxDOT research shows Texans ages 16-24 are the state's most frequent litterers and they are often the most difficult audience to reach. The second annual Don't Mess with Texas Road Tour will take a truck full of games and prizes to Texas hotspots this summer, and a new Don't Mess with Texas Campus Cleanup (sponsored by Dairy Queen) will kick off at the state's colleges and universities in March 2004.

## Caprock Girl Scouts offers January events

The Girls Scouts of Caprock Council offer several events for the month of January.

Brownie Girl Scouts can participate in Shape Science on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Science Spectrum in Lubbock. This event will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and again from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Girls will be able to make an animal out of paper, explore shapes in nature and create their own paper magic as they fulfill the requirements for the Number and Shapes Try-It. Cost is \$10.00 per girl (includes badge) or \$14.00 for workshop and museum time. Registration deadline for this event is Jan. 6.

Yarn & Fabrics will be held for Junior Girl Scouts on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Lubbock Lake Landmark. From 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Juniors will learn the basics of weaving as they create their own miniature masterpiece. This event fulfills a requirement toward their Yarn and Fabrics badge. Cost is \$6.00 per girl and the deadline to register is Jan. 6.

Junior Girl Scouts can also participate in Science Discovery at the Science Spectrum on Jan. 31. Girls will explore the exciting world of science as they experiment with chemicals, light and much more. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and again from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per girl (includes badge) or \$14.00 with museum time. Girls need to be registered by Jan. 15 in order to attend.

Cadette/Senior Girl Scouts will be able to earn their Program Aide Pin by completing the Program Aide Training Core Course on Jan. 24. Held at the Science Spectrum from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., participants will learn about fundamentals of Girl Scouting and how to work in a leadership capacity with other Girl Scout age levels. The course includes safety concerns, characteristics of the three younger age levels, Girl Scout basics, as well as how to plan a meeting. Girls must be in the seventh grade or older to participate in this course. Cost is \$10.00 per girl and registrations must be received by Jan. 15.

Non-Girl Scouts are also eligible to register for any of these activities. There is a one-time registration fee of \$10.00 in addition to the cost of the workshop.

Financial assistance is available upon request. For more information, please call the Caprock Council office at (806) 745-2855 or (806) 296-7295 in Plainview.

## January is School Board Recognition Month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Motley County ISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge their commitment to communities and schools.

"Texans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. These men and women are the local school board members of Texas," said Rick Copp, Superintendent.

"These people unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education," Copp said. "They represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education. Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part," Copp said.

"We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and school facilities. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families," said Copp. "These individuals deserve recognition and thanks for their dedication to the continuing success of our students and schools," Copp said.

The men and women serving Motley County ISD are:  
Douglas Campbell, President, Service 4 years  
Shonda Elliott, Vice-President, Service 3 years  
Tina Brooks, Secretary/Treasurer, Service 2 years  
Les Woolsey, Trustee, Service 3 years  
Pat Smith, Trustee, Service 2 years  
Ted Davey, Trustee, Service 1 year  
David Stafford, Trustee, Service 1 year

Keep our kids  
SAFE!  
Drive carefully  
in school  
zones!



### TAX TIPS

If you need an additional tax deduction for 2003, there is still time to make an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contribution of up to \$3,000.00 (\$3,500.00 for individuals over the age of 50). IRA contributions can be made for 2003 until April 15, 2004. IRAs are attractive tax saving tools for numerous reasons. IRA accounts accumulate tax-free until withdrawn. First time homebuyers may withdraw from their IRAs for home purchases without a penalty. Education expenses can also be withdrawn from IRAs without a penalty. Taxes are paid at the time the funds are withdrawn. Taxpayers may begin withdrawing from IRAs when they reach the age of 59 1/2. Taxpayers must begin withdrawing a minimum distribution at age 70 1/2. If you have any questions or would like more information on IRAs, please contact Dianne Washington at Thayer and Washington, CPAs at (806) 455-1087 on Thursdays or at (806) 347-2636.

Tax Tips Provided by:

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# FARM & RANCH NEWS

## Harvest shows eradication working

Abilene -- As the cotton harvest wound up across the state, some Northern Rolling Plains growers were extolling the virtues of boll weevil eradication. One grower recently sent the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation a photograph he took on his father's farm near Childress.

"Here is personal proof of what Boll Weevil control can do. Never have we made such a beautiful crop with cotton to the very top," wrote Bryan Crook. "If we had this 20 years ago, I would still be on the farm full time."

The photo shows cotton-harvesting equipment in the middle of a field of wall-to-wall cotton. Crook is employed by the Farm Service Agency.

Crook wrote that his father, Don Ray Crook, has never been more proud of a crop

"In our part of the country, there really isn't an alternate crop to replace cotton as a cash crop. And we can produce cotton," Crook added. "We just could not afford to put out all the chemical it was taking to beat back the boll weevils."

"...Because of what you do, many families may be able to keep their farms."

Crook wasn't the only one singing the praises of eradication.

Don Rummel, who recently retired from Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M, said that his nephew, Tony Cox, was able to produce three bales per acre on his cotton farm, located

near Wellington.

"We absolutely never would have been able to do that if we'd had weevils," Rummel said.

The Northern Rolling Plains began eradication in 1999. That year, foundation pheromone traps captured more than a million weevils in just the diapause phase. Trapping that year began in August.

The following year, a full

season's worth of trapping caught more than 3 million weevils. In 2003, only 80 weevils were captured all year.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a nonprofit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from the state in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

## TDH continues successful rabies fight through bait drop program

A decade of feeding hungry coyotes and gray foxes in the dead of winter may not have kept these wild animals fat and happy, but it certainly has caused the incidence of canine and gray fox rabies to plummet.

In 1995, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) began the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP). The plan was to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to first stop the spread of the rabies virus and then eliminate canine and gray fox rabies.

Now, with stacks of favorable statistics at hand, TDH is again set to airdrop bait food filled with oral rabies vaccine over portions of South, Central and West Texas. In early January, about 2.7 million baits will drop from four specially equipped airplanes flying across 47 counties. The first flight takes off Jan. 6, weather permitting, from the Zapata County Airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop will begin about Jan. 15 from the Kimble County Airport in Junction, and the final phase will fly from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton beginning about Jan. 22.

TDH initiated the program in South Texas where canine rabies in coyotes and domestic dogs had reached epidemic proportions and threatened to invade San Antonio and other major population areas. The next year, an air drop began in West-Central Texas where an epidemic of gray fox rabies had been occurring since 1988.

"The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program continues to show excellent results," said TDH veterinarian Tom Sidwa, ORVP

director. "Look at the data: No human cases of rabies in either area since the vaccine airdrop began. No animal cases of either canine or gray fox rabies outside the original zones since the program's beginning. No canine strain of rabies at all in Texas since 2001 and a significant drop in number of gray fox rabies cases."

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to one in 2001 and none since then. Gray fox cases are down as well from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to 61 in 2003 through October.

Appealing to specialized tastes, the customized baits offer a treat of fish meal to coyotes and dog food containing molasses and vanilla flavoring to gray foxes. Each bait contains 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine.

"The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Sidwa said.

Because baits contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people have touched them, they should not be handled. Each brown bait, which measures 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 3/4 inches, is marked with a TDH toll free number, 1-877-722-6725, that people may call for information.

Sidwa emphasized that owners of domestic animals need to get their pets vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian as required by law. A domestic animal's rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccine bait, he said.

## Arbor Day Foundation offers free trees

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 2004.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The ten trees are 2 White Flowering Dogwoods, 2 Flowering Crabapples, 2 Washington Hawthorns, 2 American Redbuds, and 2 Kousa Dogwoods.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers - and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

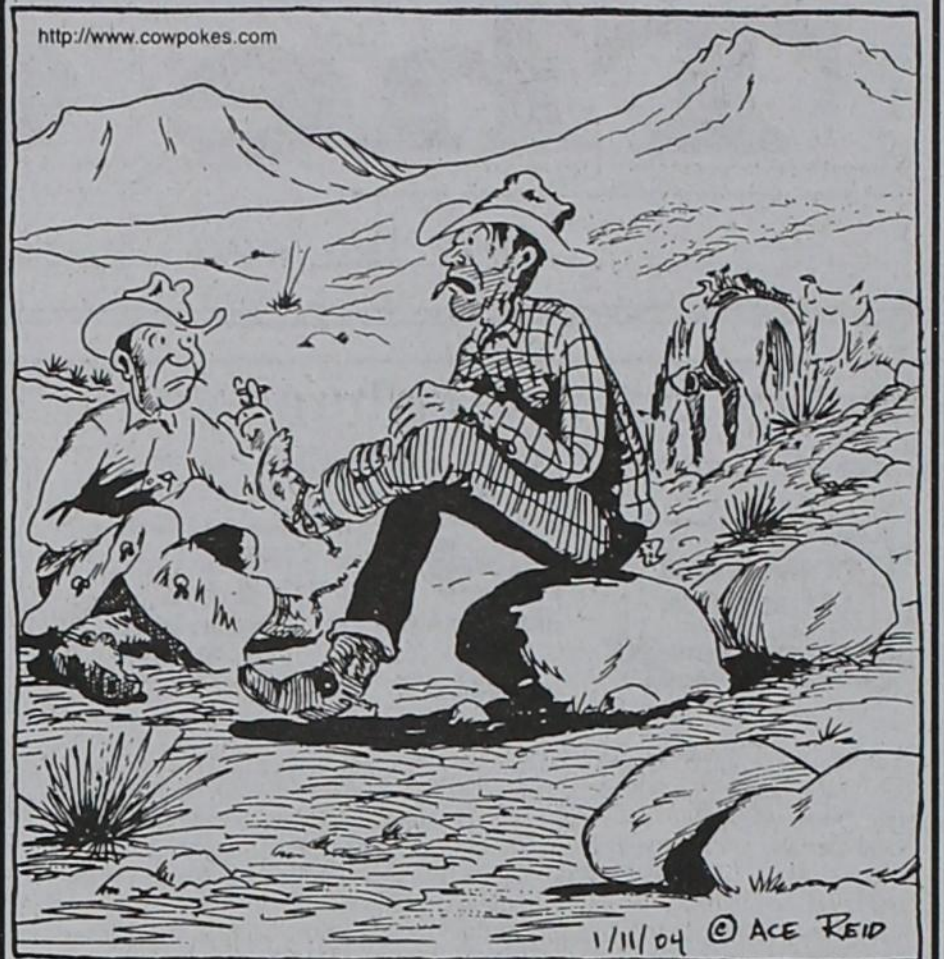
The trees will be shipped

postpaid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bi-monthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2004. Or go online to [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

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Carla M. Meador ~ Publisher & Editor



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**MOTLEY COUNTY EMS** will be sponsoring a basic EMT class beginning January 21. Scholarships available for first 10 applicants. For more information contact Seven Alexander, 806-346-7400 or Tony Rose, 806-347-2412, after 6:00 p.m.

3tc-3

— Through mistakes one gets wise.

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1tc-2

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