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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE



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MATADOR TRIBUNE

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

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Thursday, November 8, 2012

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 121 Issue No. 45

Market Matador Accepts Bids for City Lots

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

Market Matador, Inc. (MMI), met on Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall to open bids on lots recently listed for sale. MMI, governed by the City Council, was created in 2001 to acquire and market lots in tax arrears.

Attending were Bobby Williams, Roy Hobbs, Ron Bailey, ex officio board member City Secretary Debra Scott, and newly appointed board member, Dvonna Grundy. Also attending as observers were councilmen Bobby Klodginski and Betty Roberts.

In the first order of business, Bobby Williams, acting as interim president, announced the resignation of Linda Roy as president of the board. In a letter Williams read to the board, Roy cited her resignation due to "health reasons and increased job responsibilities." As interim president, Bobby Williams appointed Ron Bailey to act as interim secretary of the board.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read. A bill for the bid advertisement from Motley County Tribune was opened. Bill expenditures will be placed on the next called meeting agenda. In a financial report, Treasurer Roy Hobbs reported a balance of \$9,013.15 in the Market Matador account.

Bids were then opened for Block 138, south half of Lots 26-31; Block 87, Lot 10; Block

37, Lots 3, 20, or 31; Block 104, Lots 17-18.

Chris Spence placed a bid of \$290.10 for Block 138, Lots 26-31. Also bidding on this lot was Gene Everhart at \$147.77. The board voted unanimously to accept the Chris Spence bid. Patsy Binder, as the only bidder on Block 87, Lot 10, at \$100.00 was awarded this bid. There were no bids received for Block 37, Lots 3, 20, or 31.

There were three bids for Block 104, Lots 17-18. This property is located on Dundee Street. Lawrence Vogt and Laverne Zabielski bid \$350.00; James Gillespie bid \$801.55; and Gene Everhart bid \$577.77. The board awarded this property to the highest bidder.

Block 93, Lot 7 and Block 123, Lots 15-16, were inadvertently left off the official agenda. Therefore, these lots will be placed on a future agenda, following a 72-hour notice to the public as required by law.

A discussion followed the bid announcements on contradictions between the interpretation of the original intent of the MMI Board and the recent recommendations from the City of Matador to Market Matador.

Williams read to the group a portion of the original Articles of Incorporation which "brings a perspective we should keep in mind," he said.

According to the Articles of Incorporation, Market Matador was established "for the purpose of administration for one or more programs, including programs for making loans

and grants of public money and providing personnel and services of the municipality to promote state and local economic development, and to stimulate business and commercial activity in the municipality."

While the board regards the original intent of operation to hold lots owned by MMI (many of which are scattered around Matador proper) in an attempt to acquire adjoining lots for a larger property sales, thereby creating a larger tax base for the city; the City wants MMI to place lots up for public auction as soon as possible, putting them back on the tax rolls.

In other business, Debra Scott announced that Dianne Washington, CPA, has requested information from the board in order to refile tax-exempt status for Market Matador to the IRS. The deadline to refile the paperwork is December 31, 2012. It is important to note that MMI cannot receive any donations until its non-profit status is reinstated.

According to the IRS website, the December deadline is to receive "... a reduced fee of \$100 and retroactive reinstatement of the exempt status." This does not exclude the organization from applying as a charitable organization and refiling exempt status paperwork. If this deadline is not met, for example, organizations with annual gross receipts of less than \$10,000 during the preceding four years would pay \$400.00 to reapply.

Chamber Sponsors Third Annual Hunters Appreciation Luncheon

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

The Matador Chamber of Commerce set out the welcome mat to area hunters in front of Hotel Matador on Saturday, November 3, 2012, to kick off the first day of deer season.

The third annual Hunter's Appreciation Luncheon offered an all-you-could-eat brisket meal with all the trimmings plus a super drawing give-away from local merchants.

More than 50 hunters from Dallas to Lubbock to Petersburg, Levelland, and Midland, enjoyed the meal and stayed around long enough for a

drawing with 34 give-aways including a \$150.00 Moore Maker knife and scabbard and Matador Ranch Lodge chamber shirt, insulated jacket, two campfire mugs, blaze orange caps and more.

Merchants participating in the annual event were: Caprock Telephone Coop with a donation of two cases of water; Chillerz, Big Red drink mug with \$.80 refills; Motley Farm and Ranch Supply, owner Kenneth Davis, donated two sets of pickup floor mats and a cordless drill; and Matador Variety donated a Rubbermaid® ice chest; Glittered Pig donated a beautiful cross and candle holder; David and Cynthia Stafford do-

minated t-bone steaks; and Motley County Tribune donated a one-year subscription to the local newspaper.

Hotel Matador donated mugs and caps; and Dianne Washington filled two ammo cases with summer sausage, cheese, and trail mix.

New to You donated two shirts and a toiletry set; Lowe's Grocery donated two t-shirts; and Lisa Woods donated two t-shirts; J BarC Hunting donated two hunting knives and Randy Hicks donated two predator calls.

The last drawing of the day was a beautiful set of diamond stud earrings, courtesy of Thacker Jewelry in Roaring Springs.



Pictured (L to R) are Motley County Chamber of Commerce members Annette Holsworth, Dianne Washington, and Hotel Matador innkeepers Caron Perkins, Dorothy Russell, and Marilynn Hicks. The group served more than 50 guest hunters to kick off the first day of deer season. photo by Carol Campbell



Hunters gathered on the patio area of Hotel Matador to enjoy barbecue brisket and all the trimmings. photo by Carol Campbell

Community Health Fair To be held at Library Monday

The time is here! The Community Health Fair, hosted by the Motley County Library, will be held Monday, November 12, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. The event, featuring several medical associations from across the area, will be held in the Annex. Medical testing such as Cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and others will be offered for free, as well as lots of valuable information.

Crosbyton Clinic will be on hand to offer Flu Shots for only \$20 each. The Friends of the Library will offer cookies and bottled water.

All residents of the county and the area are invited and encouraged to attend.

**MCISD EARLY
RELEASE
AT 12:20 P.M.
ON NOV. 20TH**

Burleson Family Summit Shares History of Ranch

By Marisue Potts
Motley County Tribune

The extended family of W. E. and Mollie Burleson met at Mott Camp on November 3, 2012, to relive a moment in time when W. E. took out time from his busy ranching schedule to point out historical sites on the ranch to his children and grandchildren. At that time in the 1970's the offspring of S. C. and Lou Burleson and Frank and Marisue (Burleson) Potts were small, but now they are grown with children and even a grandchild of their own. Lou and Marisue decided that the youngest members of the family should have a background on the historical nature of the area and the family ranch.

For even the history buffs that they are, Lou and Marisue had a few surprises during the day. Jay V. Johnson, related to the Burleson's on the Martin side, shared details on the Drace-Harkey gunfight that was passed down from his father's maternal grandmother. Hallie Lizzie Drace (named for Lizzie Campbell as her brother Henry Campbell Drace was named for H. H. Campbell, Drace's boss at the Matador Ranch) was born at Mott Camp after her father

Frank Drace shot Mose Harkey in a jealous rage over her mother Louisa Ellen Drace.

Another "Aha" moment came when Eddie Cook of Childress looked into the milk shed and saw, alongside a Matador brand drawn on the floor into wet cement, his great-grandfather's name and the inscription: "H. L. Cook made this in 1943." Eddie had known that his great-grandfather worked for the Matadors but no one had any idea of the connection until this moment. The inscription had been covered by dust and cobwebs until that very morning when it had been broomed clean. According to Eddie, H. L. died just two years later. The Southwest Collection records on Matador Land & Cattle Roster show a Henry Cook hired on with the Matadors on September 4, 1897. The 1900 Census shows a Henry G. Cook at the Matador Ranch headquarters. No doubt this will prompt another research project concerning the men who worked for the Matadors.

Without cell phone coverage, I-pods or Smart phones, the teenagers in the group fared pretty well for a day in the country. They learned that there were

continued on page 5

Lion Jeff Thacker presented with 40-year Lions Club pin

The Roaring Springs Lions met on Thursday, November 1, 2012, for their monthly meeting. In the absence of Boss Lion Lynn Campbell, Vice President, Alvin Alexander opened the meeting.

Barbara Bogart from Cap

Rock Telephone brought Donald Beard, the park superintendent of Caprock Canyons State Park in the Quitaque area. He gave some fascinating information about the park and the buffalo herd there. The buffalo herd is increasing and roaming

the park with the visitors now. Lion Jeff Thacker was presented with a 40-year Lions Club pin.

Sheriff Chris Spence prepared the meal, serving pork chops, sweet potato, deviled eggs, salad, and pie for dessert.

Foothill Country Connections

Community, Diversity, Art
When you have history, you have pride.



Sunshine improvised while I played the electric guitar as a foundation for the whole piece. I am sure my Mom was listening and smiling.

We followed that with my version of "Wayfaring Stranger" in which we moved off-stage to where the concert grand piano was located closer to the audience. I had previously prepared the piano with some objects such as a small chain lying directly on the treble strings and had Susanna and Sunshine use percussion mallets to play small cymbals and also play the mallets on the strings and the case parts of the piano. This rather ethereal sound gave way to the removal of the foreign objects from the piano and the subsequent vocal delivery of the song by me also playing the piano with violin lines being played by Sunshine. Susanna and Sunshine returned to the stage as I completed the song just in time for Sunshine to begin the familiar tune of "Summertime" from George Gershwin's opera, "Porgy and Bess."

After the music we had a chance to talk with members of the audience, some of whom who knew Sunshine as a young happy toddler who loved everyone she met. Susanna met people for the first time who, besides being impressed with her vocal style, also remarked about her friendly presence. There were a lot of people who wanted to know how I achieved those weird sounds on the piano and were surprised to find the simple answers to the unusual musical sounds that emanated from the piano.

The concert was a complete success from the viewpoint of a parent who can have the opportunity to share such joy with other people.

Sometimes it is easy to forget that there are actually times when things are right and life really does give one very fulfilling moments. So it was this last Saturday evening when I had a chance to perform music with two of my daughters. The three of us live in different areas of the country and it is a challenge to make and execute plans for this kind of event. Nevertheless, my daughter Sunshine Vortigern, from Terra Alta, West Virginia, and Susanna Van Tassel, from Austin, Texas got together in Monticello, Kentucky to play music for folks in a restored theater with wonderful acoustic properties.

We played a variety of musical styles from different eras and got a chance to try on some music that presented each of us with challenges. We started with a Bob Wills classic, "Time Changes Everything" and went on with other country songs, a jazz swing piece or two featuring acoustic guitar and violin, and finished with a set of pieces that brought into play the concert grand piano at the theater. That set of tunes began with the familiar hymn "In the Garden" which, coincidentally, was a song that my mother dearly loved and both Sunshine and Susanna had come to like because of their own introduction to it. That song was sung by Susanna who gave it a special warm rendition with a wonderful background violin part that



Congratulations to the Motley County cross-country team that participated in the Region II UIL Cross-country meet held last Saturday at Vandergriff Park in Arlington. The girls represented Motley County very well. Pictured above, L-R Brielle Collett, Ginnie Gutierrez, Meagan Ford, Macie Marshall, Kaylee Woolsey, Natalie Jameson, Mattie Brooks. photo by Walter Taylor.

MC experiences first freeze of the season

By Earlyne Jameson

An early morning freeze Saturday, October 27, 2012, had an official low temperature of 28 degrees in Motley County as reported by the Weather Bureau in Lubbock. It was earlier than the usual last of November first freeze.

The majority of the cotton farmers who had not defoliated were pleased and hoping to complete stripping their crops by the first of the year. Some dry land fields in area were zeroed out by insurance adjusters and were being destroyed.

Where there was rain the

past few weeks, livestock was considered in good condition, grazing green wheat fields and rangeland and pastures after recovering from drought damage.

Motley County National Weather Service Volunteers

Total rainfall for October 2012 was way below average: Buzz Thacker, Roaring Springs 0.23; Ronnie Bailey, Matador 0.050; Betty Simpson, Northfield 0.04; Lawrence Allen Whiteflat 00; Clois Shorter, Flomot 0.04.

Fund Raiser Sunday Lunch

The Motley County Senior Citizens site committee will be having a

Pre-Thanksgiving Lunch

November 18, 2012

at the Motley County Senior Center

This will be a fund raiser for the center.

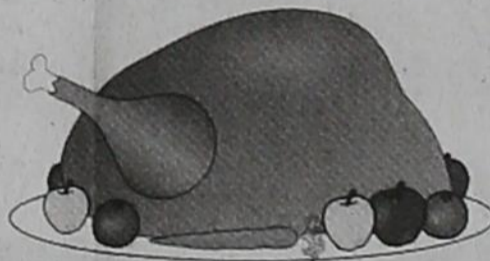
Lunch will consist of Turkey & Dressing with all the trimmings. Serving time will start at 11.00 a.m.

\$ 10.00 for adults

\$6.00 for kids

12 and under.

Come join us for a good time of fellowship.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Rance Shepard was born on October 24, 2012. He weighed 6 lbs, 10 oz and was 20 inches. Rance is the son of Matt and Kelly Roy of Alexandria, VA, and the brother of Malosi. His grandparents are Linda and Tom Roy of Matador and Janelle and Bob Shepard of Weatherford. Great-grandmother is Dorothy Russell of Matador.

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

Laverne Zabielski & Larry Vogt, Publishers & Editors
Jennifer Lawler, Office Manager
Carol Campbell, Feature Writer

TASB Media Honor Roll

Houston Press Club Editorial Award Winner
West Texas Press Association Member
Texas Press Association Member



Award Winner

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Opinion Editorial

By Wade Smith
AEP Texas President and Chief Operating Officer

By now, you've probably heard that AEP Texas will be installing new, digital Smart Meters at your home in the near future. The meters are part of a larger effort-taking place nationally to modernize the electric grid, which really hasn't changed much since its inception a century ago.

Smart Meters, known as the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system, will be installed at nearly 1 million residences and small business across the AEP Texas service area over a four-year period at a cost of nearly \$300 million.

This new technology will enable customers to get timely feedback about their electric consumption so they can find ways to conserve on their electric bills. Research has shown that consumers can reduce their energy consumption between 5 and 15 percent when they have

direct feedback on their usage.

Additionally, Smart Meters will improve customer service, as we will no longer have to enter your backyard on a monthly basis to read your meter. We will be able to connect and disconnect meters remotely, which will reduce the amount of time you'll have to wait for a new service connection. Fees associated with these transactions also will be dramatically reduced over time as more meters are deployed throughout our service area that encompasses nearly 100,000 square miles in south and west Texas.

Since Smart Meters are two-way communication devices, they will be able to tell AEP Texas when there is a power outage. When electricity stops flowing to the home, the meter will give a "last gasp" signal that will inform us that the lights are off. This will also help us locate the outage as our Dispatch Center collects data on who is out of power and where the problem likely exists.

In the near future, Smart Meters will allow Retail Electric Providers to give customers different pricing options as an incentive to reduce electric consumption during peak usage times. In-home monitoring devices and an online website will be available to help monitor consumption. It also will have the ability to communicate with "smart appliances" as manufacturers begin to produce major appliances such as washers and dryers with built-in smart chips.

AEP Texas is not alone in this effort. Larger electric utilities in Houston and Dallas were the first to begin installation of these meters due to legislation that encouraged the use of digital technology to help reduce electric consumption. The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), which still regulates wires companies like AEP Texas in our deregulated marketplace, is overseeing the process to ensure the public's interests are protected.

Electric customers will pay

for the meters over time with a monthly surcharge on their electric bill. Customers will pay an average of \$2.53 a month over an 11-year period. It is expected that the savings experienced on electric bills will help defray this cost.

Smart Meters are just one component of a modernization effort that AEP Texas is calling gridSMART. Digital technologies have changed every aspect of our daily lives and now will help us manage our energy consumption and reduce our impact to the environment. That makes the future brighter for everyone.

FMI: www.aeptexas.com/gridmart

Wade Smith oversees electric distribution operations for AEP Texas in south and west Texas as well as the safety, customer services, marketing, communications, community affairs, governmental affairs and regulatory functions.



4th and 5th Grade Classes enjoyed hiking, fishing, and learning a lesson, while on a field trip to Caprock Canyons State Park in Quitaque, TX. Parents: Teresa Woolsey, Tim Shannon Brent Marshall, Gerald Dean Spray. Class Sponsors: Lacey Rankin, and Jennifer Brady



Our 2nd Annual Spooky Afternoon at the Library was a great success! About 50 kids attended to enjoy an afternoon of decorating pumpkins and lots of other fun things.

BIG Game for Jr. High and High School football teams this week. Tailgate party, Motley County Style Thursday night at the tennis courts after the Jr. High football game.

Community Health Fair

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Kellogg's Cereal Cups each 99¢	Plains Egg Nog quart. \$1.69	Plains Dips Select Varieties, 8 oz. \$1.29
Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Bars BUY 1, GET 1 FREE	Shurfine Whipping Cream 8 oz. 89¢	Shurfine Orange Juice gallon \$2.99
Western Family Paper Towels roll 1 @ Reg. Price or 3 FOR \$2	Shurfine Half & Half pint 89¢	Douglas Fir Christmas Trees each \$28.99

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FREE!

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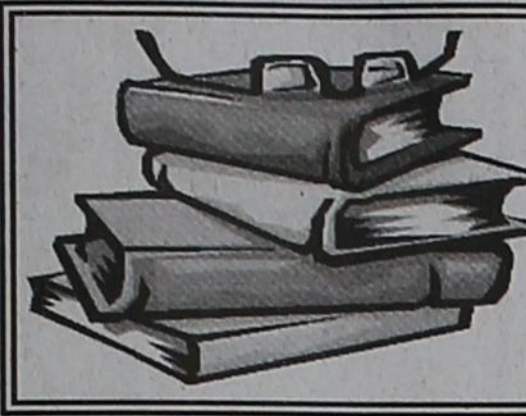
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EACH
2 \$3 FOR



Library Journal
by Carla Meador Librarian

County Agent's News
by Ryan Martin, AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent



COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Now if you're gonna be my lawyer, the first thing you've gotta do is believe my neighbors had a calf crop failure this year and my cows all had twin calves!"

Our 2nd Annual Spooky Afternoon at the Library was a great success! About 50 kids attended to enjoy an afternoon of decorating pumpkins and lots of other fun things. Thank you so much to all the kids attending, the Friends of the Library volunteers and parents who helped in any way!

Don't forget about our COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR which will be held Monday, November 12, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the annex. We are hoping everyone will take advantage of this great opportunity to get some free medical testing such as cholesterol screening, blood sugar, O2 levels and more, as well as information, treats and door prizes! Crosbyton Clinic will be on hand to give flu shots for only \$20 each. I have been told that is less than you can get one in Wal-Mart! Even if you don't need any tests or a flu shot, please stop by and browse and enjoy a treat with us.

We thank Chad and Denise Lawrence for their generous donation to the Friends of the Library. We appreciate donations such as this and the patronage and support to our Library.

New to our DVD section this week is *Obama's America 2016*.

Our featured book this week is *Leading Ladies* by Kay Bailey

Hutchison. Ms. Hutchison recently donated this book to our Library and we thank her very much. In a series of skillfully drawn biographical portraits, Senator Hutchison examines the lives of sixty-three pioneers in military service, journalism, public health, social reform, science, and politics - all American women. Following in the footsteps of her bestselling book *American Heroines*, Senator Hutchison continues to celebrate female accomplishment in all walks of life. Weather committed to a chosen cause or thrust into a public role by personal circumstance, the women profiled in *Leading Ladies* have all woven thin threads of opportunity into sweeping tapestries of achievement. Mixing historical portraits with modern success stories, Senator Hutchison shows how American women from all periods of history have contributed to the strength and progress of our nation. With courage, purpose, and compassion, the women of *Leading Ladies* continue to blaze trails for thousands of American women to follow - and no history of the nation can be written without them.

Library hours are Monday, 2-5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday, 1-6 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. - 2

Burleson Family Summit Shares History of Ranch
continued from page one

three houses that served as a line camp at the cottonwood motte, a spring house near the creek played a part in a gunfight, and a stone barn's graffiti is another man's history.

Reaching back further than the open range era, they also were told how the area was a haven for historic Indians, military scouts, pre-historic Indians, Ciboleros, Comancheros, and Pastores. The young people were given a chance to interpret a petroglyph of a running horse etched into a sandstone boulder and they came up with some interesting ideas on what might have been the message behind the drawing. Hiking or riding in the back of several pickups, the group made their way to Indian sites dating perhaps to the 1400's and 1870's, a sheep herder's fence dating to the 1870's, the horse drawing and a pioneer dugout of the 1890's, Boggy Springs and pens, a roundup ground of the early Matador Ranch.

The hungry troopers were treated to a tasty cowboy stew by the Brocks, "better than cowboy cornbread" (broccoli cornbread) by the Jones and an assortment of desserts, including a birthday cake for Mary Ann Potts.

Those attending the event held in perfect Indian Summer weather were S. C. and Lou Burleson; Steve and Carlla (Burleson) Jones, Casey Jones and Matt Taylor, Cianne Jones, Ty Jones and Julie Sims, Chris Patain and Ellen Guffy; Kirk and Beverly (Burleson) Brock, Kolt Brock, Kwail Brock, Brittan Brock, Eddie and Kim Cook;

Marisue (Burleson) Potts, Jim and Mary Ann Potts, Jay Potts, Neal Potts, and Grant Potts; Jay V. and Patsy Johnson, David and Phyllis (Johnson) Thompson, Wilder Thompson, Druann (Johnson) and Leann Lloyd, Jeff and Rojion Johnson, Evan Johnson, Merritt Johnson; and last but not least, Maria Brown and Laura Turner.

Drought-restricted watering schedules don't have to equate to dead lawns

COLLEGE STATION - Lush, green lawns may not be possible during drought-restricted watering schedules, but sustaining and maintaining their grass is something homeowners can do with proper management, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Research expert.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality estimated approximately 1,000 Texas public water systems imposed water restrictions during the 2011 drought. Such water restrictions frequently limit homeowners to a two-day-per-week watering schedule.

Jim Thomas, AgriLife Research senior research associate, and Leslie Keen, with Naiad Water in Conroe, worked with a study this summer to determine what such a schedule might do to a lawn's condition.

"When you are under drought restrictions, you have a limited time to water," Keen said. "We wanted to visually see how the grass looked with water restrictions, because this can sometimes be a concern with homeowners and homeowner associations."

The study at the Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Lab in College Station compared irrigation timing and sprinkler-head types in an effort to provide guidelines for meeting the two-day-per-week watering schedule and maintaining a healthy turf.

The turf plots utilized in this study were established in the fall of 2010, Thomas said. Previously, these six turf plots planted to St. Augustine and Bermuda grasses were watered half on a four-day-per-week watering schedule and half on a two-day-per-week watering schedule, applying a full inch of water per week.

In the 2012 research project, all six turf plots were set to a two-day watering schedule with a reduced total of water applied, and the researchers compared four different sprinkler heads: spray, MP rotator, rotors and sub-surface drip.

"Coming out of last year, what we wanted to do this year was to simulate a drought and only run two days a week," Keen said. "Instead of putting a half inch of water on each of the two days, we also decided to only apply one-quarter inch and one-third inch on the watering days."

The study determined that if the grass started out healthy, "you can irrigate twice a week using less water than normal and the grass will survive," she said. "You will have less green, but it will respond when water is applied. But we need to stress, you have to start with a healthy lawn first."

The comparison of sprinkler heads/systems showed the best outcome occurred under drip irrigation, followed by the turf watered with spray heads, the MP rotator heads. The poorest performers were the rotor heads, the two said.

"No matter which system you have, you need to adjust it correctly so you don't have overspray on the street or other concrete," Thomas said. "Focusing on the efficiency of how you irrigate is key."

In the typical residential situation, he said, irrigation systems are often not properly adjusted to just hit landscape. In those situations, as much as 35 percent to 50 percent of the water can be lost to runoff.

Another key, Thomas said, is timing of the water application. "Large cities don't restrict how much water you can put out, they just restrict how many days a week you can irrigate," he said. "If you try to apply half an inch of water in a half hour, it

can create quite a bit of runoff."

He suggested using a cycle-soak system, where a small amount of water is applied and allowed to soak in and then a second amount is applied and allowed to soak in, thus minimizing runoff of the valuable water and nutrients that might be applied to the grass.

"Even a poorly installed system that is properly scheduled is going to do a much better job," Keen said.

"All this takes homeowner input," Thomas said. "You can't just set the system and six months later come back and check on it. You have to watch what is happening when the water is being distributed."

Most residential controllers can have multiple start times, the two said. They can be programmed to apply water at multiple times in one day, allowing a person to lower the application at each watering.

Another finding of the study: Brown does not always equal dead.

"It may be tapering off and going dormant due to lack of water, but dead and dormant are not the same thing," Thomas said.

Keen said the green color of the grass will respond to rain, even if it has turned a little brown.

"Even if you have had to stress it further than normal, if it still responds to rain, it is still alive," she said. "The color might not always be acceptable to homeowners, but if it was healthy, it will be able to recover once the drought restrictions are lifted."

Texas Animal Health Commission Announces Details of New Cattle Traceability Rule

AUSTIN - A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect January 1, 2013 according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The Commission amended its rules in June of this year to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities. Implementation of the changes was delayed by the Commission to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification. This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August of 2011, official identification devices such as eartags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 Brucellosis reactors, over 300 Bovine Trichomoniasis affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date in 2012. The new trace-

ability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification devices/methods may be found at www.tahc.state.tx.us, but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags, US origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), and breed registration tattoos or firebrands. Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them. The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives. The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices. Partner contact information will be published as it becomes available. Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at www.tahc.state.tx.us.

Frequently asked questions
Q: What age/class of beef cattle must have acceptable permanent identification?

A: Sexually intact adult beef cattle 18 months and up, and Mexican origin event cattle. Nursing calves, steers, spayed heifers, bulls and heifers under 18 months are exempt (unless heifer has calved).

Q: Where can I find the complete listing of all Commission approved permanent identification devices?

A: Producers may access the complete list at www.tahc.state.tx.us or by contacting any TAHC office or personnel.

Q: Do I have to use the free eartags offered, or can I use other acceptable methods of identification?

A: No, the free metal tags are not required to be used, but they are one low cost option.

Q: Will ear tag pliers be provided at no cost or will I have to purchase them?

A: A limited supply of ear tag pliers is available at no cost. Because of the limited supply, producers are also encouraged to consider purchasing tagging pliers from any Ag supply outlets.

Q: Is this rule a federal rule?

A: No, this is a Texas rule, but it will put the beef industry in compliance with the anticipated USDA Animal Disease Traceability rule for interstate movement expected to be released later this year.

Q: When does this Texas rule go into effect?

A: To ensure that the cattle industry has ample time to understand the changes and prepare, implementation of this rule will not take effect until January 1, 2013.

Q: If my animal already has a silver test tag or orange vaccination tag in its ear, will it need to have a new tag applied if sold at a livestock market?

A: No. Animals presented with approved official Id's at a market will not have to be re-tagged.

Q: Can I move my cattle directly to slaughter from my farm or ranch without an ID?

A: Yes, ranchers can move an animal directly to slaughter from their premise without an ID. Breeding cattle otherwise changing ownership by private treaty (country sales) must have acceptable identification.

Q: What happens if my cattle are too weak to be safely tagged at market?

A: The TAHC has proposed an amendment allowing the waiver of the rule by a TAHC inspector in consultation with market ownership or management for weak cattle presented at a sale.

Q: Do I need to keep records when I sell my animal(s)?

A: Record keeping is not required when animals are sold, but is strongly encouraged.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining the information related to eartag distribution?

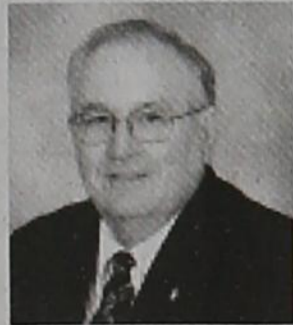
A: All official identification numbers assigned will be maintained in a TAHC-managed database. The TAHC will not track individual change of ownership transactions.

For additional ear tag information, including the nearest distributor of free USDA tags, contact the TAHC Traceability Team at 1-800-550-8242 ext. 733, or visit www.tahc.state.tx.us.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

TO KNOW WITHOUT LOVE



It is possible to know a number of things about God, the Bible, and the Christian faith without loving God. A person might know the commandments of God, yet if that person does not love Him, he or she will never obey those commands.

Our Lord put it like this in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." That is being both very plain and simple. It is easily understandable.

When studied with an honest and sincere heart, it will never be possible to merely academically study the Bible. When studying the Bible, a person is forced to make a decision as to whether or not he or she will follow Jesus and do as He commands.

To be sure, this is not a decision that one would make lightly. There is much involved. The cost is great. But so are the rewards. The reason one follows the Lord Jesus is love. It is from an undying love for the Lord that one lives for Him. Academics do have a rightful place. More than that, they are even necessary. But let us also remember to love Him and to love one another fervently.

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

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- November**
- 6 Matador Lions
 - 7 Kids Praise
 - 8 Matador City Council
 - 8 Matador Chapter of the Eastern Star, Floydada, Meal at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30 pm
 - 8 MCISD Mavericks vs Groom, 5:00/6:30
 - 9 MCISD Matadors at Groom, 7:30p
AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador
 - 12 Commissioners' Court
 - 12 Roaring Springs City Council
 - 12 MCISD School Board, 7:30pm
 - 14 Hospital Bd meets in the back of the ambulance barn 7am
 - 15 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm
 - 16 Bi-District
 - 16 AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador
 - 17 Motley County Arts and Crafts Bazaar
 - 18 Pre Thanksgiving Luncheon, Senior Citizen Center Fundraiser at the center
 - 20 Matador Lions
 - 23 Regional
 - 23 AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador
 - 30 Qtr Finals
 - 30 AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador

Vicky Valdez
Mary Kay
Consultant
Matador
940-475-0125

Motley County ISD is taking applications for a Superintendent's Secretary to begin December 2012. You may pick up applications at the Superintendent's Office at 1600 Bundy Street, Matador, Texas. ct46

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ct46

Will the person who took the Matador Spirit Flag from the Library, PLEASE RETURN! Just put it back where it belongs, no questions asked. PLEASE! Motley County Library, 347-2717

FOR SALE

2 bedroom, 1 bath 1711 Scotch St. near school, fenced backyard, metal roof. PRICE REDUCED 1-806-983-4301

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Brick home. 2BR, 1 bath. New roof, new plumbing throughout, new exterior paint, central heat & air, large fenced lot. 1517 Eubank St., Matador. 806-687-6116

For Sale: 1230 Bailey St. 2 acres with Renovated Home in Great condition. New flooring and paint throughout most of home. Charming remodeled bathroom. New wood privacy fence around backyard. Includes: Attached: Studio and porches. Detached garage, celler and buildings. Please call for details: 806-777-6619 or 806-632-2665 ct48

The Motley County Library is selling Raffle Tickets for a Kindle Fire HD with case. \$2.00 per ticket or 6 for \$10. Tickets may be purchased at the Library. Call 347-2717 for more information.

Larry and Laverne will be in Matador during December
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