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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS, 79409

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Thursday, January 5, 2012

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 121 Issue No. 1

Motley County in Review

Out with the old; in with the new



By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

Time to reflect back and project forward – some might say “good riddance” to 2011 starting with the firestorm in late February that raged three days across our land.

The February fire took 34,294 acres of grassland and engulfed everything in its path in flames, including 256 miles of fencing. And it didn't end there – fires from March through August claimed an additional 26,000 acres of grassland in Motley County.

In a training exercise on May 10, 2011, the Abilene, Odessa and Midland Bomb Squads detonated explosives close to Flomot, igniting fires that burned about 150 acres. ATF took full responsibility for the fire. This event received national attention when County Attorney Tom Edwards said ATF had a “corner on stupid” for supporting a detonation of explosives during high winds and a county-wide Burn Ban. *Reuters*, a global news agency picked up the story. The story was recently highlighted in the *Texas Monthly* end of the year “Bum Steer Awards.”

The fire and its aftermath brought out the very best in ordinary men and women,

neighbors helping neighbors, many exhibiting extraordinary bravery – working hour after hour without food or rest. These quiet heroes stood against the forces of nature, and finally – just as their ancestors before them – they won. The land was reclaimed, and the healing began.

One firefighter said: “we are just a rainfall away from the Garden of Eden” – but then the rains didn't come in 2011. Motley County has reported the longest drought since the 1950s with the US Drought Monitor as of December 27, 2011, ranging Motley County from “abnormally dry” to “drought extreme.” But, we don't need a monitor to tell us how parched the land is.

The record lack of rain was just part of the story. Further suffering came from record low temperatures in February and all-time high temperatures of more than 100 degrees day-after-day in July and August. The playa lakes dried up, no dry-land crops were produced, including hay grazing crops. Many ranchers were forced to sell their herds because there was no water or grass.

But in spite of the beating by Mother Nature, successful community events were

staged on schedule. The 71st Annual Motley County Junior livestock show went off without a hitch on February 12 at the bus-show barn; and the Boondockers hosted the 6th Annual Matador Grand Prix on March 20. This popular event sends local vendors to the streets, offering a variety of food to more than 100 guests that invaded Matador. The organization donated their registration fees to the Motley County volunteer fire department. The West Texas Historical Association brought about 40 guests to Motley County on March 31, 2011, for a Motley County and Matador Ranch Tour.

Other events also reported “good turnout” – a supportive community showed up when it really counted – from fundraisers for the fire department to the Highway 70 Garage Sale the first weekend in May. In early August, the Senior Citizens Site Committee hosted the Annual Ice Cream Social featuring Gerald Pipkin and Friends; and the traditional, much favored, Thanksgiving Meal with all the trimmings in November – all well attended by residents.

The 6th Annual July 4th Celebration, hosted by the community volunteers in Roaring

Springs, reported a smaller attendance than usual. But despite a much-needed intermittent rain and a firework ban, events were all on schedule from the All-wheeled Vehicle Parade to Hilarious Hats, Dog Parade, and all the fried chicken, barbeque, and homemade ice cream you could eat.

The annual Chamber events included the ever-popular music venue and street dance – Foothills Saturday Night. This street dance was a precursor to the kick-off of the 88th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo August 25-27. Two film crews, one from California and one from Colorado captured the action. In addition to Old Settlers, Whistling Boulder Productions, sponsored by the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail, filmed former Matador Ranch cowboys, compelling fire stories, and more than 20 interviews with area residents.

A Giant Arrow landed in Matador on August 10, 2011. The placement of the arrow to mark Motley County's place on the Quanah Parker Trail, was sponsored by the Texas Plains Trail Region Heritage Trail Program. Artist Charles Smith of New Home, Texas,

was the benefactor. The Giant Arrow Dedication in downtown Matador on Saturday evening, October 15, 2011, highlighted descendants of the Quanah Parker family.

November brought the successful repeats of two favorites – the Do Gooder's Fall Bazaar with a chance to win a coveted handmade quilt; and the Arts and Crafts Bazaar where members of this popular Matador Club sold their hand-crafted gifts just in time for Christmas.

Santa Claus made two appearances in Matador and one in Roaring Springs in December at the annual Late Night Shopping venues. Sheriff Chris Spence is the Jolly 'Ol Elf's right-hand man, they say. A record number of children waited in lines at Windmill Café and the Motley County Library to tell Santa their wishes for Christmas. Also in December, Grannies Annual Tea Party hosted by Joyce and Janie Campbell, served the “little ladies” for the 22nd year.

The Mighty Matadors made a seemingly unstoppable run for a State Championship in Six-Man Division football, losing in the final game to Richland Springs. These young men and coaches are to be commended for a job

well done. The tradition of winning football teams from Motley County is known far and wide.

While the community was saddened by the closing of Hackberry Creek Care Center, new businesses came to Motley County in 2011: The Delicious Grill, Wildgame Processing Plant, and Sassafras Beauty Salon, all in Matador; and LaVoe's Beauty Salon in Roaring Springs opened their doors for business. The Main Street Café in Matador reopened under new management.

And finally, Wind Energy in Motley County gained ground. About 18 miles of transmission line upgrades is racing to completion from Matador Substation to Paducah Substation – AEP spearheaded this effort. The proposed SPS line that would run across Motley County from Floyd County line toward Childress and on into Oklahoma, if successful, would greatly benefit Motley County in 2012.

Dear Hearts and Gentle People: The New Year promises to be a busy and successful year, just as in years past. We live in a blessed land. Where else can you live such a full and fruitful life?

Happy New Year!

Foothill Country

Connections

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



By Larry Vogt

Hope you survived the parties and overindulgence of the holidays. For New Years Eve we stayed home and streamed a 1942 Roy Rogers movie. It seems we have a grandson who is interested in trying his hand at writing a Western. It is interesting to me that Netflix does not have a "Western" category. They just lump it in with "action and adventure". Laverne and I watched the movie with our adult "literary" eyes and enjoyed the scenery, the action, and Gabby Hayes doing his usual repartee with the other folks in the cast. The movie appeared to be set in the late 1930s and Roy drove a great looking late 30s convertible that I did not identify. And, by the way, he did ride his horse, too.

Then we did our end of year review and our versions of resolutions. Apparently there are researchers who are delving into this issue and they say that you have a better chance of following through with your resolutions if you tackle them one at a time. It has to do with the chemicals in your brain giving you good marks for actually accomplishing a behavior modification or something to that effect. It appears that if you pick out a resolution or task that has some good chance of success and you make progress that it is easier to tackle other resolutions.

Take the resolution of paying off your credit cards: I know that financial experts advise paying down the lowest balance credit card that you have and then going on to the next highest until all your credit cards are paid off. This procedure works well if you have the will power to throw away all credit card offers and carry plenty of cash. A lot of us old timers have been in a cash and barter economy anyway, right?

Have a happy and prosperous and less stressful New Year!

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WRITING COMMUNITY

This is Compassion?

By Gary Campbell, Austin

I recently spent 10 heartbreaking days at St. David's South Hospital in Austin, Texas, watching my best friend slowly starve to death. This is the way that we, as a society, "compassionately" allow those who have no hope of recovery, to die.

My friend, Zachary James Wilson, was only 35 years old. He suffered from depression, and that coupled with too many prescription drugs, more drugs from a recent illness, and alcohol drove him to a suicide attempt. As it turned out, it was unfortunate that he was temporarily saved by another one of his dear friends who managed to get the medics there in time, temporarily save him, and put him on life support. He never regained consciousness and remained in a coma at the hospital. Two days later, we were given the best-case prognosis: most of his brain had been damaged beyond repair and he faced life in

a wheel chair, loss of bodily movement and cognitive skills, incontinence, and more devastating results.

Fortunately, Zach had told many of his friends and family that should he ever be in that situation, he would prefer to be allowed to die. His parents elected to follow his wishes and remove him from the respirator. Unfortunately, his lungs were able to breathe on their own and he remained alive. Given food and water, he could likely have remained in this state of existence indefinitely. Legally, the only option left was to remove food and water and allow him to slowly starve to death. It took him eight agonizing days to die, while his loved ones had to endure watching him waste away.

Every 2-3 hours, we would call the nurse, who would give him 4 mgs of morphine to help him get through the next few hours. If we, as a society were truly compassionate, that nurse would have been allowed to give him a much larger

dose of morphine and he, his family and friends could have been spared this agonizing process. It is ironic, that we treat our dying animals much more humanely than we do our fellow humans.

I am angry that this is the way our law is written. I'm not sure where to turn or what to do to help bring about change, but I want to make a noise that will bring attention to this travesty and get it abolished. Hopefully, the Affordable Care Act will encourage end-of-life discussions between doctor and patient/family when medicine can do no more. I encourage anyone reading this letter to contact your Congressman and demand an end to this inhumane practice before it adversely affects you, your family, and your friends.

Please visit www.CompassionandChoices.org

Gary@AdvantagePrep.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the numerous other letters about the proposed FM 94 project. I agree with some of what everyone has stated in their letters to the editor but I too have an opinion.

I am in favor of this road expansion. I live on FM 94 and really like the limited traffic running in front of my house but the county needs better roads if we are ever to have any type of economic development. I would also like to see higher speed limits in areas of limited traffic. I don't think that road speeds should only be determined by what might or might not happen in the future but should take into account technology and societal changes. At some point people need to be responsible for their own actions.

The real reason in writing this letter is because I think the biggest problem with all of this hasn't been mentioned. The problem I see with all of this is the perception of corrupt elected officials using their of-

fice to affect policy that they are intimately involved with or that of a close family member. No elected official should be commenting, participating or creating policy that they are gaining favor from or to affect policy to keep from suffering disfavor. What other land owner on FM 94, including myself, could single handedly stop this expansion? Commissioner Jameson is on record having a meeting with TX DOT on this expansion prior to Commissioners Court and he failed to publicly disclosing this during Commissioners' Court. The fact that the other Commissioner's acted in unison might be responsible for some suggesting that the counties business is to be done behind closed doors and without public comment, true or not.

Some have mentioned the evils, necessary or not, of Eminent Domain. I would agree that it is to be used lightly and sparingly. I think the perceived abuse of government power, real or not, is that Commissioner Jameson did not recuse himself from the discussion. He has used his power of office to over-

ride other landowner's opinions and rights for his personal gain or to prevent a personal loss. That is a corrupt government action that has happened and for all to see. Eminent Domain might come into play in the future because of the Commissioners' Court actions and based on what Chuck Steed of TX DOT was quoted as saying in the December 15th paper, but will that use of Eminent Domain by TX DOT affect the Jameson family or another family down the road? Chuck Steed of TX DOT stated on December 15th "that his design team would have to revisit the design and see what other options were available." I don't think any other land owner will have as easy a time of changing the design decisions about the road.

For full disclosure, I am a candidate for Precinct 3 Commissioner and I am running against Commissioner Jameson.

Mike Hackler

Dear Editor:

I agree with Susan Jameson, Marisue Burleson Potts, and Ron Bailey. All have valid points. But the award for targeted focus goes to Laverne Zabielski and her call for open government pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. It prohibits members of a governmental unit from discussing and deciding pending matters privately, rather than in a posted open meeting.

Violation of the Act is a Class A Misdemeanor prosecuted by the District Attorney. It can result in a fine of up to \$4000 and confinement for up to a year in jail. Conviction results in automatic removal from office. The Act also applies to members of City Councils and School Boards.

Another factor that everyone knows or should know is this. When a member of a governmental unit has a personal interest in a matter that conflicts with that member's public duty of office, e.g., to act in the best interest of the city or county, then he or she should recuse from any involvement in the matter. Otherwise the Oath of Office is violated.

Tom Edwards

Dear Editor:

To my friend Ron Bailey, did you attend the commission's meeting or did you just get a report from the Tribune reporter? To my friend Marisue Potts, you understand why landowners and rural people have to make a stand on their property. To the other county commissioners thanks for listening to one of your commissioners who just happens to be involved in the middle of what TxDot wants to do. Along with Susan, the rest of us at Northfield have had to put up with a lot of bad decisions that TxDot has been making. As Susan said they completely closed our road to Childress for nearly a year. One bridge was out and you could not cross on their bypass with stock trailers. We all had to go 15 miles farther to get to Childress or Hollis with the stock trailers. They decided that they could not put the fin-

ish on this road during the winter months so they kept it closed from October until April. And guess what happened then, the state was out of money so they took \$1,000,000.00 off the budget and failed to put enough gravel on the road to cover the asphalt. One and a half years later when we drive on this seven miles we still get asphalt on our cars if the temperature is 98 degrees or above. What do you think happened all of last summer? We spent 5 hours getting the asphalt off of our car from just one trip driving on 94. After several calls to TxDot about the problem they agreed to do a quick fix, put down lime. They led me to believe it would be on the entire 7 miles, but guess what, it was only on about 200 ft. on each side of the stop sign at Tell. Lime is only good for 2 to 3 days stopping the bleed through.

With them completely taking out the bridge to Turkey (and

this was out the same time the road to Childress was out), we personally had to make lots of trips through Matador trying to get to the Doctor in Amarillo which put an extra 30 miles on our trips. So we feel like Childress TxDot has done some poor planning. Do any of you know how much extra was spent on Nimmo corner making a mess out of what was once a good curve? Now a stop sign for FM 94.

How many of you know that some of the expenses comes out of Motley County's budget? For years we have asked our commissioner's to please control the budget and how can they do that when TxDot presents them with their portion of the bill for matching funds?

There will be very little money spent at businesses in Matador because of what is offered with very few miles difference. And how many local people re-

ally expects to be employed with a construction company? As Susan said, we do know where most of their food comes from. They have no pride in where they throw their trash. We even have had dump trucks full of trash dumped on FM 94's right of way. I personally have called Childress TxDot to make the companies come back and load up their trash after they left the area.

Billy Paul worked on the original road that was put in in the early 50's and I have driven them since 1954 and a sure way to have a wreck with all the cattle and wildlife is to try to drive 70 miles an hour, especially after dark.

When you see one of the commissioner's thank them for not doing what TxDot is asking at this time.

Thank You,
Betty Simpson

Due to a power outage in the office we lost all messages on the answering machine. If you called during the week after Christmas, please call us back. Thanks

Redistricting: "What's the deal?"

By Cindi Taylor
The Texas Spur

In yet another issue bogging down the 2012 Primary Election in Texas, papers were filed last week, on December 21, objecting to the new Primary Election date of April 3. This time, however, it was filed by officials who actually conduct the elections. (See related article on page two.)

The Conference of Urban Counties, the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas, and the Texas Association of Counties filed the suit saying they agree that all primaries should be held the same day, but they object to the date—April 3—which was chosen by the state's political parties.

This is just the latest action lodged in a long list of court activity (see Chronological Time Line, page two) filed since September, all linked, if not originated, with opposition to the Texas House and Senate District maps approved during the 82nd Texas Legislature. The most recent actions leading to much of the candidate (and voter) confusion include:

- 1) A court order delays and shortens the candidate filing period (changing it from Nov. 12-Dec. 12 to Nov. 28-Dec. 15) for the 2012 Primary Election then set for March 6.
- 2) A November 17 federal 3-judge panel in San Antonio offers new district maps.

3) As the filing period begins, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott asks the U.S. Supreme Court to halt approval of the maps proposed by the San Antonio panel.

4. On December 15, what was to be the last day to file for office, a federal court order extends the filing period to December 19 and moves the Primary Election to April 3. This action was to allow candidates for Congress, State Senate, and State House time to file for offices still without firm district boundaries.

And today candidates are still unsure what areas of the state their district will encompass and where they will need to campaign. And Texas voters are left wondering, "What is the DEAL?!"

An Associated Press article in the December 24 issue of the Dallas Morning News explains why a Washington-based court refused to approve those maps earlier this year:

"Texas is one of 16 states covered by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and must get pre-approval from either the Department of Justice of the federal district court in Washington before changing any voting laws. The rule applies to states with a history of racial discrimination."

The purpose of redistricting is to equalize population in state and congressional districts after publication of the United States census, and to

ensure that minority populations are considered.

Reviewing the history of redistricting further explains what it is and why it is necessary. Redistricting in Texas is mandated by the Texas Constitution of 1876. It requires that the Texas Legislature redraw state representative and senatorial districts every 10 years, coinciding with the U.S. Census. The federal constitution also requires redistricting of congressional seats based on the decennial census.

In 1948, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment that created a Legislative Redistricting Board to carry out redistricting responsibilities if the Texas Legislature failed to do so during the session. Any legislative or LRB plan must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

A suit against an adopted redistricting plan may be brought at any time under the federal or state constitution or federal law. Plans drawn by a federal court do not need to obtain Section 5 preclearance, while plans drawn by a state court do require preclearance.

When Attorney General Abbott asked the Supreme Court to approve the new maps that came out of the 82nd Texas Legislature, the Justice Department and Texas minority

interest groups argued that the redistricting maps were discriminatory, and the court put their approval on hold. Now a trial is set for January 9 to hear arguments.

"We conclude that there are genuine issues of material fact regarding whether the plans were enacted with discriminatory intent," the court said in a 44-page opinion filed last week. "The ability [of minorities to elect a candidate of their choice] can rarely be measured by a simple statistical yardstick, as is the essence of Texas's approach [to drawing fair districts]."

Groups who oppose the maps say they are drawn to give whites a majority of seats in the Texas House and Senate and in Texas congressional seats. Whites make up only 45.3 percent of the population, according to 2010 census data. The state's lawyers deny intentional racial bias and explained that because Republicans control the Legislature, it was only natural that they drew maps that would benefit Republican candidates. They also argue that the reason Hispanics are not the majority in more districts is because most Hispanics vote Democratic, and it is not because of their ethnicity.

Candidates and voters alike will have to stay tuned to see what the next episode of "As Redistricting Rolls" brings.

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Sheriff named to Museum and History Committee

On November 8, 2011, Sheriff J. W. Jankowski, President of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, named Motley County Sheriff Chris Spence to the statewide Museum and History Committee.

The primary purpose of the history committee is to preserve the history of the sheriffs of Texas. The committee is composed of at least five sheriffs, appointed by the President of the Sheriffs' As-

sociation of Texas. There are currently nine members on the committee at this time.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TECLOSE) is appointed by the President of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas and composed of sheriffs from around the state. The committee provides input as to the education, training, and curriculum of the training program.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the food brought, flowers, comforting words and especially your prayers during the loss of our Husband, Dad, Grandpa and Friend. May you be blessed as you have blessed our families.

Dora Hurt

Tommy & Kate Hurt & Families

Lee Hurt & Families

J.D. Hurt and Family

Mouse Trap Cars Invade Gym

By Mrs. Gillespie
Motley County Tribune

Each member of the Physics class at Motley County ISD constructed a car from a mouse trap and demonstrated their vehicle's prowess in the gym. The only propulsion allowed for the movement of the "car" was the motion created by

the spring of the mouse trap. The students were not allowed to alter the shape or operation of the mouse trap. They could, however, create a "car" around the mouse trap.

The project's intent was for the students to use their knowledge of Newton's Laws of Motion and the Law of Universal Gravitation. There were also

guidelines regarding the distance the "car" had to travel as well as penalties for various infractions of the rules.

The members of the class were quite creative in their car designs and several met or exceeded the requirements of the project. A good time was had by all during the actual motion trials of the vehicles in the gym.



Jeffrey Reyes, Austin Taylor, Britt Simpson, Sabra Pope constructed a car from a mouse trap and demonstrated their vehicle's prowess in the gym. photo by Walter Taylor



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JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS BY BETH MOORE

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple with Beth Moore's 8-session study *James: Mercy Triumphs*. And, in the process, learn how you can put your own faith into action.

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NEWS AROUND MOTLEY COUNTY

Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

On a personal note

I usually don't like change. It's hard for me to shift gears so to speak. Two changes happened this last week that are a blow to our town. There is no joy in Roaring Springs though Casey didn't strike out!

Pearl Patten was hospitalized last week and has gone to live at Raider Ranch in Lubbock. Raider Ranch is located at 6520 43rd Street; Pearl's apartment number is 213. The zip is 79407. Pearl will be sorely missed.

Another disconcerting thing that happened is that on December 31st; the Daniell's closed Travelers Inn. They will only open the hotel for large groups. Travelers Inn has been the 'spot' for the coffee drinkers and other fun events in our town. We got used to going there and we will miss it. We wish the Daniell's a happy retirement!

Corky received a puppy for Christmas. She is about 10 weeks old and she is a black and tan dachshund. She doesn't have a pedigree but she sure is cute and a real challenge for two seniors to house break. I wonder how Mary and Grady Web managed to train Wixie so well. Corky named the new family member, Dixie. She is a live wire and so mischievous. It takes two of us to watch her! Dixie has already had baby gifts. Jo Trammell brought training pads, Ralph Roming brought bacon treats to reward her for a job well done; and Barbara Alexander sent her a tiny pink collar!

In the community

Randy and Leandra Harris, Matt, Kenna and baby Ella arrived on Wednesday for a late Christmas with Leandra's parents, Don and Billie Stuckey. They returned to their home in Flower Mound on Sunday.

The John Measons served Christmas dinner to about 65 'home alone' folks at the Roaring Springs Community Center. The tables were beautifully decorated; the food delicious, good fellowship. Devonne Dillard played Christmas Carols for the diners. Ten take-out dinners were delivered to shut-ins. Favors for the guests were jars of jelly made by Joan's twin sister, June Porter. Each jar was decorated with ribbon and a small ornament on the lid. Devonne, Zella Palmer, Alex Crowder, and Virginia Salsbury also helped with the dinner. Ken Abbott and Corky delivered meals.

The Roaring Springs Coffee Drinkers are now meeting at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. The coffee urn from the hotel is in place to provide coffee. The same tall tales will be told and the same grousing about

the government will go on. Don't miss it!

Bo Long, Chooch Meyer, Coy Meyer, Faith Meyer, Kamrhyn and Christian all from Big Spring spent Christmas with Boyd and Laura Long.

Dinah Young flew to Raleigh, North Carolina, to spend Christmas with her daughter and family, Sennika, Patrick, Zak and Jude Verrill.

Jared, Kandi, Kirbi and Harper Jo Johnson; Kevin, Lesa, Kaitlyn, Kenzie Morgan, Kagen and Kennedy Keltz spent Christmas with Kelly and Penny Keltz. On Christmas Eve, the Keltz' hosted the Marshall family for their annual Christmas party. Those attending were: Kenneth, Mary, Brent, Jana, Macie, Eli, Cambri, Brian, Nancy, Rivers, Tyne, Reese, and Steel Marshall all of Matador. Corky and Monta Marshall of Roaring Springs also attended. On Christmas Day the Keltz family was joined by Stan and June Lovell of Fort Worth/Matador.

Angelica Meredith came to visit Joe Glenn and Joyce Meredith on December 23. On the 24th, Jonah Meredith accompanied her back home to San Angelo and spent Christmas day and week with their family, Cody and Leah Meredith. Jonah returned on New Year's Eve.

Joyce, Joe Glenn Meredith, Jim and Carla Meador, Randy and Holly Meredith and boys, Yancey, Daphne and Parker Meredith were guests of Tony and Sherry Rose on Christmas Eve. There were about 20 extended family members that celebrated at the Rose home.

Buzz and Tince Thacker had an early Christmas at the home of Tince's son, Joe Wayne Fondy and family on December 17 in Slaton. On Christmas Eve, they were guests of Jeff and Pam Thacker for the Thacker family gathering. On Christmas Day they enjoyed dinner with Lou Ann and Gordon Terry and sons from Austin in Post.

Ralph Roming joined Corky and Monta for a Christmas Eve lunch at the home of Ford and Katie Miller of Lockney. Thirteen guests were feted to a delicious Mexican dinner and desserts. Even Dixie Dog got to attend and was the life of the party.

Pearl Patten visited Linda and Arnold Parker at Boyd, TX for Christmas.

Kenneth Ashley spent Christmas in California with his children. He will keep doctor's appointments while there.

The Walter Trammell's spent Christmas in Lubbock with their family.

Donna Kennedy has been ill with pneumonia. She has been visiting her daughter, Marianne in Oklahoma for several weeks.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

Overheard

Everything starts with faith. Faith causes us to see good things in the future and because of this we develop a vision of success and prosperity in life. Happy New Year and we wish you the best in 2012!

The happiest people are fearless dreamers. They use their imaginations to create hope and possibility.

Community News

Flomot residents were thankful for a white Christmas! Christmas holiday guests of Sandra and Jerry Barclay were sons and families, Cody and Amanda Barclay, Lane and Ashton of Borger, Lance and Sherryll Barclay, Colton and Kayla of Meadow, and Ty and Brittany Barclay, Tylee, Trent and Trevor of Matador.

Visitors during the Christmas holidays with Janice and Butch Hughes were sons and families, Bengie and J.J. Hughes and Katie of Royce City, Billy Don Hughes, Brennan and Bailey of New Deal, Rickey and Tasha Hughes, Kendal and Kason, Roger and Tiffany Hughes, Kendal and Kason, Roger and Tiffany Hughes, Tara, Reagan and Brody of Floydada.

Christmas day guests of Ruth and Orville Lee were Joey Lee of Clarendon, Jason Lee of Amarillo, Teresa and Tom Heck, Kacee, Micah and Cody of Turkey, Roger and Shonda Lee and Josh Lee of Flomot.

Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton was a guest at a family pre-Christmas luncheon Thursday in the home of Waydetta and Ronald Clay of Flomot. She was a guest Christmas day of Mrs. Judy Renfro and family in Matador.

Guests Christmas day of Mrs. Erma Washington were Connie and Coy Franks of Flomot and their houseguests, Children, Cara and Clint Cowart of Big Spring, Cory and Amy Franks, Hudson, Madison and Heston, Cary and Mary Franks of Idalou; Tim and Dena Washington, Matt and Ashley Washington, Blu, Brazos and Brands of Roaring Springs; Sandra and Jerry Barclay of Flomot and their houseguests, Lance and Sherrilyn Barclay, Kayla and Colton of Meadow; Connor Mason, Conway and Lacy Clary, Caleb, Mickey and Kenzie of Matador.

Donna Sue and Stanley Degan of Kalgary and Donnie Rogers of Flomot visited Christmas Eve with their mother, Mrs. B. Rogers.

Visitors during the Christmas holidays with Jack and Nada Starkey were children and families, Bessie and Clifton Reid of Amarillo, Mrs. Jackie Lynn Davis, Michael and Virginia Davis of Fritch and Michael and Lori Starkey of Canyon.

Wilburn Martin visited during the Christmas holidays in Borger with daughter and fam-

ily, Marilee and Fred Cooper.

Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay had their Christmas family luncheon in their home Monday, December 26 with children and families, Lori and Kevon Kleibrink, Kyler and Karlee of Clifton, Larry Clay, Kelsey, Tanner and Sarah of Panhandle, Tina and Pat Carson, Ryleigh, Parker and Walker, Julie and Neal Edwards, Caden, Jaxon and Laney of Turkey.

Visiting during the Christmas holidays with Kathy and Clois Shorter were daughters and families, Cindy and Chad Cowart and Cade of Boston, Massachusetts, Christi and Dwain Milam, Emily and Haley of Lake Kiowa and Keri and Kevin Sehon, Brian and Brooke of Wolfthor.

Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse had a family Christmas night dinner in her home and children and families attending were Deidra and Larry Clifton of Elk City, Oklahoma; Skylar Clifton of Denver, Colorado; Mr. and Mrs. Talon Cruse, Audry and Colton, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Smith, Cutter and Jaxon of Floydada; Mr. and Mrs. Brand Cruse, Branson, Brayson and Baydor, Mr. and Mrs. Keane Cruse, Reese and Brighton of Turkey; Leah Cruse of Amarillo; Fannin and Ashley Gwinn and Shandi of Matador; Derinda and Mark Patton, Teah and Tally of Silverton; Tory Patton of Lubbock; Thor Patton of San Angelo; Darla and James Gwinn and Danielle of Whiteflat; Mrs. Judy Cruse, Roegan Cruse, Brenda and Barrell Cruse of Flomot.

James and Darla Gwinn and Danielle joined family members at the Gwinn home in Matador Christmas Eve day, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Holcomb and Aly Gwinn of Lubbock, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raetz, Charles "Chig" Gwinn, Fannin and Ashley Gwinn and Shandi of Matador.

Doris and Roger Vinson visited during the holidays in Lubbock with son and family, Shannon and Stacy Vinson, Kaitlyn, Morgan, Bubba and McKenzie. Other guests were Dana and Crystal Vinson, Alyson, Elise and Chris and Mrs. Mildred Cantrell of Lubbock. Bubba returned home with Doris and Roger and visited until Wednesday.

Matador News

Guests of Mrs. Marihelen Wason Christmas Eve night were children and families, Charla and Bennie Marracle, Mrs. Kacee Schafer and Kason of Snyder, Shahala and Allen Holsher, Kinley and Braxton of Roscoe; Mark and Kathleen Wason, Dalton and Daleena of Argyle; Brenda and Darrell Cruse of Flomot, Leah Cruse of Amarillo, Keane and Lacy Cruse, Reese and Brighton of Turkey.

Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Jameson and daughter, Shanna Lou of Santa Fe, N.M. visited during the New Year holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.R. "Skeet" Jameson.

Celebrates Birthday

Mrs. Sherrilyn Foster of Lubbock was greeted with sunshine smiles Sunday January 1 when her mother, Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert, honored her on her birthday with a family luncheon in her home. Birthday cake, gifts and a melodious refrain of Happy Birthday added to the celebration. Those attending beside her husband, Dan Foster were Tim and Gwen Mandrell and daughter, Peyton and Chris Calvert of Lubbock and Glen Calvert of Flomot. Chris remained to visit overnight Sunday.

Matador News

Austin and Carianne Billett of Lubbock took a little time for themselves Thursday night with a stay in the Heritage Room at Hotel Matador. Son Owen spent the night with his grandparents while they were in Matador. Austin is a middle school band director in Lubbock, and Carianne is a middle school library aide, soon to be librarian.

Sergio Gutierrez and Nestor Trujillo, both of San Angelo, stopped over in Matador Thursday night.

Sunday, December 18, teenagers Riley Scott of Lorenzo along with Justin Scott, Candice Scott, and friend Levi

Sheral, all of Roosevelt, enjoyed games, laughs, stories and Christmas treats with Great-Grandparents Herb and Evelyn Smallwood. David Garriso, Evelyn's son, spent Wednesday night with the Smallwoods.

Gerald and Penny Pipkin of Lubbock, and Penny's daughter, Pam Dakin of Phoenix; and Carol and Lucretia Campbell, Matador, were guests of Winifred Darsey and her daughter Joanne and Steve Stevens, Dallas, on Christmas Day. The group enjoyed a traditional turkey meal with all the trimmings, piano music by Gerald, and visiting.

Birthday Celebration!



In late November, a party of family members gathered on the Island to celebrate Cora's 98th and son Albert's 75th birthday. It was a fun time with family coming as far as Montana...Cora still resides at the Homestead in Coupeville, Washington near her son.

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Thursday Sunny 69/34	Friday Mostly Sunny 66/30	Saturday Mostly Sunny 55/29	Sunday Partly Cloudy 49/31	Monday Partly Cloudy 46/30	Tuesday Isolated Rain 45/34	Wednesday Mostly Cloudy 42/31
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Weather Trivia

Does the sun always give off the same amount of energy?



Weather History

Jan. 5, 1982 - A three-day rainstorm in the San Francisco area finally came to an end. Marin County and Cruz County were drenched with up to 25 inches of rain and the Sierra Nevada Range was buried under four to eight feet of snow.

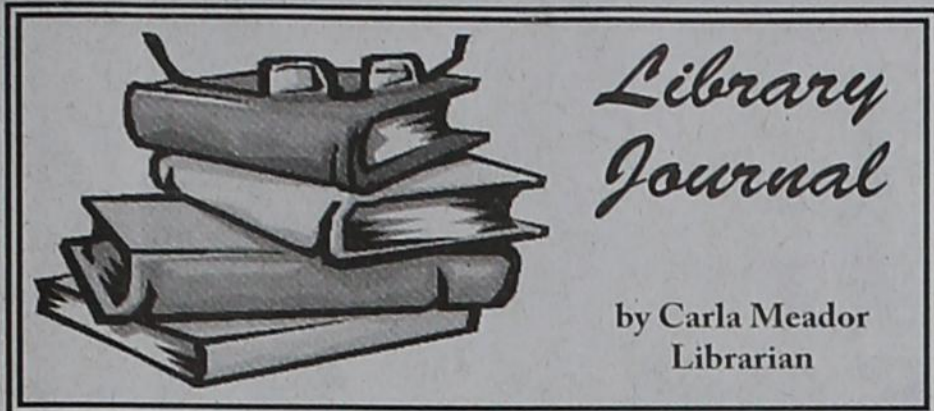
Moon Phases

Full 1/9	Last 1/16	New 1/23	First 1/30
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Happy New Year! 2012 has arrived! Wow! It's unbelievable how fast a year goes by! I know we all say that, and every year it seems the time flies by even faster. Here's a little recipe for a happy new year. I truly hope you all have a splendid 2012!

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients. Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupfull of good humor. Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a happy new year.

-- Author Unknown

New books on our shelves this week include *Locked On*, by Tom Clancy. In this intriguing novel, Mr. Clancy brings together his greatest characters and a new generation to fight the war on terror.

Vigilante, by Stephen J. Cannell. In this thriller, Mr. Cannell delivers his most powerful thriller, as LAPD detective Shane Scully and his partner, Summer Hitchens, investigate a crime with ties to the world of reality TV, and an enemy who will do anything to exact revenge on the police.

D.C. Dead (a Stone Barrington novel) by Stuart Woods. After a shocking loss, Stone Barrington is at loose ends, unsure if he wants to stay in New York and continue his work as a partner at Woodman & Weld. It comes as a welcome relief when he's summoned to Washington, D.C., by President Will Lee. The president has a special operation that calls for Stone's unique skill set, and it's a mission that will reunite him with his former partner in crime, Holly Barker.

Through My Eyes: A Quarterback's Journey by Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker. Mr.

Tebow shares the behind-the-scenes details of his life, on and off the football field, revealing how his Christian faith, his family values, and his relentless will to succeed have molded him into the person and the athlete he is today.

In our Large Print section, we have *Only Time Will Tell*, a novel by Jeffrey Archer, *Acceptable Loss*, a William Monk Novel by Anne Perry and *Hope Rekindled* by Traci Peterson.

In our children's section, we have *Levi Strauss gets a Bright Idea* by Tony Johnson; a fairly fabricated story of a pair of pants.

Also new to our shelves is *Grunts* by renowned historian, John C. McManus, who demonstrates that, from the beaches of the second World War to the deserts of the Middle East, the foot soldier has been the most indispensable and most overlooked factor in wartime victory.

Murder in Vegas, edited by Michael Connelly. In this book, Mr. Connelly and the International Association of Crime Writers present twenty-two new crime tales of gambling and desperation.

One Second After by William R. Forstchen. A story in which one man struggles to save his family and his small North Carolina town after America loses a war that sends our nation back to the dark ages.

The above three listed books were donated by Mr. Stephen Taylor of Austin. We thank Mr. Taylor for his donations to our Library. We also thank Joe Dean Bumgardner of Wichita, Kansas and Mrs. Alla Deen Knadle of Lewisville, Texas for their paperback donations.

Our Book Sale was a great success. We appreciate everyone who made book purchases! We sold lots and lots of books, but we did have some left, so I will be offering FREE books to those who would like to stop by and browse through the boxes. I will keep them on display for a week or so, so don't wait, stop by today. You will most likely find a few good books to take home or to give to someone else.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the James R. Fish, Sr. family for their very generous donation to the Library. We truly appreciate your generosity!

I would also like to thank Mark and Michelle Jeffers for their donation to the Library in memory of Thomas Hurt.

Donations such as these are a vital part of what keeps our Library in operation. New books will be placed in the Library with Mr. Fish's and Mr. Hurt's names inside.

New Property Tax Exemption for Veterans' Surviving Spouses

(AUSTIN) — Texas continues to do its part to keep helping military veterans and their families. A full homestead property tax exemption that began in 2009 to help totally disabled military veterans will extend to their surviving spouses after January 1.

"This new provision will help families who have been a part of the tremendous sacrifice that veterans have given our country," said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. "Texas voters overwhelmingly passed a constitutional amendment that will allow surviving spouses of totally disabled veterans to continue to claim a full homestead exemption and not pay property taxes on their home."

In 2009, veterans began receiving an exemption for the total appraised value of their residential homesteads if they have received 100 percent disability rating or are con-

sidered unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Based on information provided by appraisal districts, about 35,300 veterans currently receive that exemption.

The homestead exemption for surviving spouses of veterans who received the exemption begins January 1. Senate Bill 516 allows the total homestead exemption if a surviving spouse does not remarry after a disabled veteran passes away and the property remains the homestead of the surviving spouse.

Surviving spouses would have to apply for the tax exemption through their county appraisal district. The application form containing property tax exemptions has been updated for residents and appraisal districts to use. It can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-114.pdf>.

Soil & Water Conservation District Holds Annual Poster Contest

The Upper Pease SWCD recently sponsored the annual conservation poster contest for Motley County ISD students in kindergarten through 5th grade. This year's theme was "Soil to Spoon" and each student that participated designed an exceptional poster. The purpose of the theme is for the students to research and understand where the food they consume comes from and how the soil is an integral part of the process.

There were some really great entries and the judges had the difficult job of selecting the winners in the following grades:

- Kindergarten**
 1st place – Haven Hill
 2nd place – Bryer Davis
 3rd place – Neveah Martin
 4th place – Jason Richards

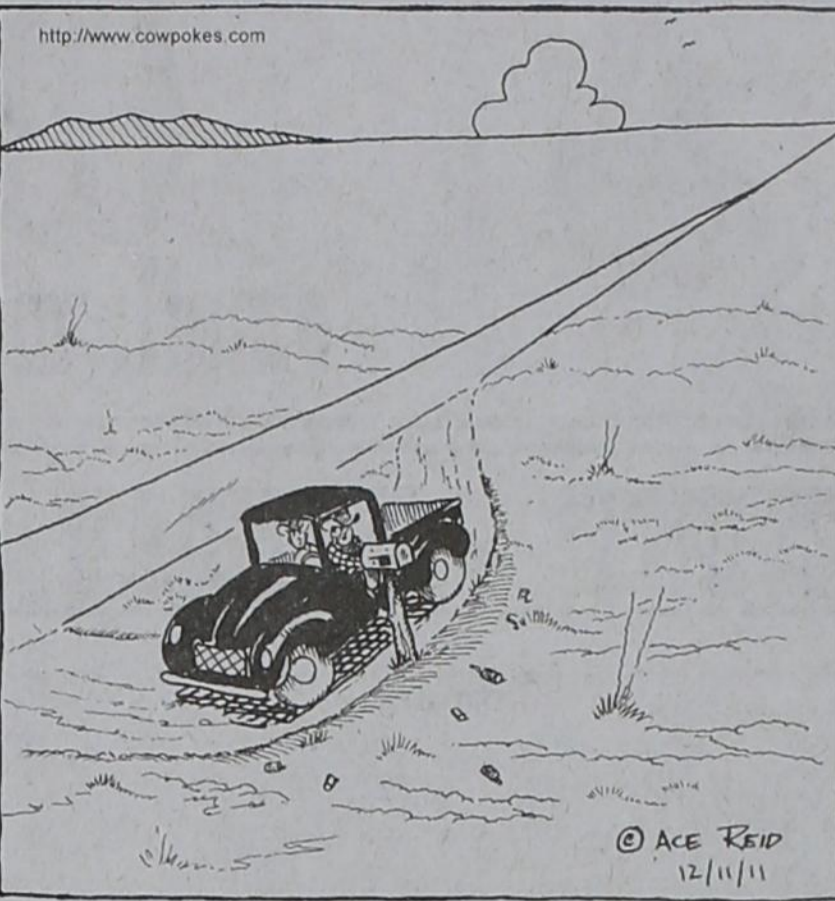
- 2nd Grade**
 1st place – Andrew Stafford
 2nd place – Tyler Barton
 3rd place – Tyne Marshall (not pictured)
 4th place – Braxton Salazar

- 3rd Grade**
 1st place – Nathan Garland
 2nd place – Isabella Quilimaco
 3rd place – Kenzie Clary
 4th place – Keygen Woolsey

- 4th Grade**
 1st place – Zowie Barton
 2nd place – Emma Hackler
 3rd place – Autumn Perryman
 4th place – Jay Talamantez

- 5th Grade**
 1st place – Tucker Barton
 2nd place – Rebecca Santos
 3rd place – Jonathon Flores
 4th place – Ethan Mason

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"It's heck to drive 25 miles to the mail box to get a paper with nothin' but bad news!"

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Obituary

McElton Skaggs

LAKE PALO PINTO — McElton Skaggs, 86, of Lake Palo Pinto went to be with the Lord Monday, December 26, 2011. Services were held at Thursday, December 29, 2011, at the Lone Camp Baptist Church, where he was a member and served as a Deacon. Interment was in the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene. The family received friends at Edwards Funeral Home in Strawn on Wednesday, December 28, 2011.

Mac was born October 15, 1925, in Chillicothe, Texas, to Virgil and Myrtle (Turner) Skaggs. He graduated from Matador High School in 1942. He married Geraldine Brooks on July 8, 1942. He served as a Tail Gunner on a B-17 in WWII and was Commander of a Tank Battalion in the Korean Conflict. He was an oil and gas operator and consultant in Corpus Christi and Abilene, Texas.

He is survived by his wife,



Geraldine of Lake Palo Pinto; two sons, Connie Mac Skaggs and wife Jerri of Abilene; and Brett Skaggs and wife Lydia of Austin; one daughter, Sherilyn Skaggs of Lake Palo Pinto; one sister, Geraldine Allen of Streetman; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Lone Camp Baptist Church, 108 Hoover Rd, Palo Pinto, Texas 76484.

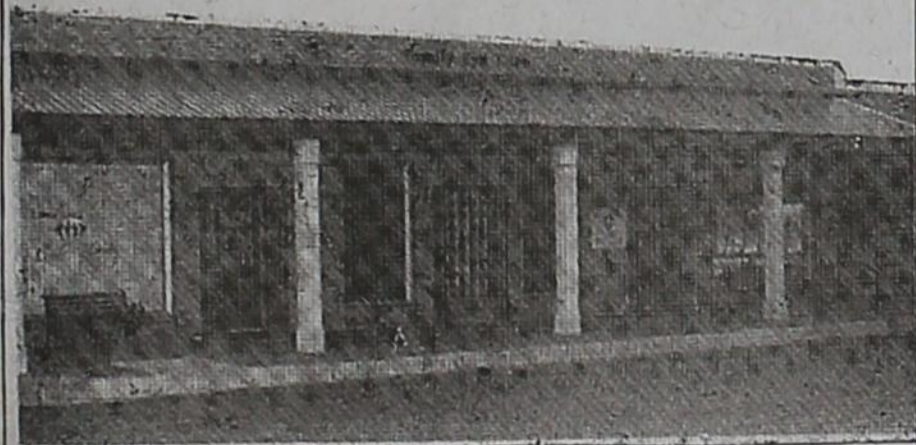
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2012 IS HERE!



The months of the old year are gone! Here we are in the year 2012. We have lived through the year that has passed and are therefore confident in the Lord, that we will be able to appreciate whatever this new calendar brings to us.

In this New Year let's cultivate a desire for knowledge. Can we make it our goal to have a better relationship with both God and man? We want to develop a thirst for the things of God. We will purpose to do His will as we learn of it through study of the Scriptures.

It will be our purpose to be evangelistic in nature. Our mission for 2012 will be to live Christ, to preach Christ and to be useful to all as we have opportunity.

Our confidence will be firmly placed in Jesus. For we believe that He is the Son of God, that He is the head of the Church and that He speaks to believers through His Holy Word.

Whatever the new year holds for us, we will anticipate every day of it with the understanding of our Lord's promise found in Hebrews 13: 5, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." May the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace..." in this year of 2012.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

January

- 3 Matador Lions
- 4 Kids Praise
- 5 Roaring Springs Lions
- 9 Commissioners' Court
- 9 Roaring Springs City Council
- 9 Motley County Arts and Crafts Club, Motley County Senior Citizen Center in Matador from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.
- 9 MCISD School Board, 7:30pm
- 11 Hospital Bd meets in the back of the ambulance barn, 7am
- 12 Matador City Council
- 12 Matador Chapter of the Eastern Star, Floydada, Meal at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30 pm
- 17 Matador Lions
- 19 Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm

February

- 6 Motley County Arts and Crafts Club, Mot

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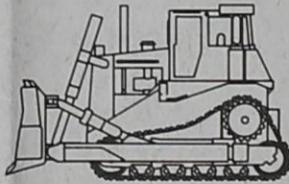
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